AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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888.432/1-455

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY, TEHRAN

305
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 4, 1955
DATE

REF : Embassy Despatches 260 of December 3, 1954 and 286 of December 20, 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	INFO OCR-2 ofl-6 P-1 IES-4 EUR-5 Rep-2
	REC'D 1/10	OTHER Cia-7 USIA-10 FOA-10 HEW-5

SUBJECT: Dr. Manuchehr EQBAL named Chancellor of the University of Tehran

On January 2, official announcement was made that Dr. Manuchehr EQBAL, who is also a Senator, would be appointed Chancellor of the University of Tehran. In accordance with the new law governing the selection of the University head, on that day the Minister of Education recommended Eqbal to the Shah, having chosen him from a list of three nominees put forward by the University Senate. The Imperial Firman naming Eqbal Chancellor was expected to follow automatically since, even before the Senate session last week, the Shah had made it very clear that he wanted Eqbal named. The Shah's intervention was presumably motivated by considerations connected with the University itself. Nevertheless, since Eqbal has been one of those with aspirations to succeed Zahedi as Prime Minister, some unconfirmed reports, including one from the Iranian secret police, allege that the Shah desired Dr. Eqbal's selection in order to remove him as a candidate for the premiership. In law, however, there is nothing to prevent a man retaining both posts, just as one member of the present Government is also a Dean at the University. Dr. Eqbal is to assume his new function on January 4.

Eqbal, who himself studied in France, has been considered a partisan of French educational methods, which now prevail at the University. In recent months there has been a campaign to shift to the American educational system led by Minister of Education Reza JAFARI with support from USIS and USOM. Dr. Jahanshah SALEH, Minister of Health, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and originally a candidate for the Chancellorship, is the most outspoken supporter of the American system at the University. Eqbal's appointment would seem to insure that the French system will continue to prevail for the time being at least. Nevertheless, Eqbal is a more flexible man than Saleh. His political ambitions lead him to seek to stand well with the British and Americans. A good administrator, he is capable of introducing useful reforms at the University.

The Shah's interference in this University affair, and particularly the manner in which he acted, aroused considerable resentment, both inside and outside University circles. Immediately before the Shah's departure on his trip to the United States, Deputy Seyed Jalal-ed-Din SHADEMAN, who was a minor official in the Imperial Court before his election to the Majlis, began visiting quietly the members of the Senate of the University of Tehran. He informed each of them that it was His Majesty's desire that they vote for Dr. Manuchehr Eqbal, Senator and member of the Faculty of Medicine, in the coming elections of the three candidates for the Chancellorship of the University, one of whom would be named to the post by the Shah. In carrying out his mission, Shademan

JECunningham/nd
REPORTER

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(Classification)

called on Saleh, evidently in ignorance that he was Eqbal's rival and, in fact, the leading candidate for the Chancellorship. Dr. Saleh dismissed him curtly, informing him that he did not consider Shademan a genuine emissary of the Shah since he was sure that His Majesty would deliver personally any message he had for him.

Saleh then called on Eqbal on the telephone and asked him if it was true that he was a candidate for Chancellor for, if so, he thought he had a right to know, since he was Dean of the Faculty and Eqbal was a member of his staff. Eqbal replied vaguely that in this matter he could only be guided by the Shah's wishes.

A few days later, Minister of Education Jafari called on Saleh and informed him rather apologetically that His Majesty had told him to do everything possible to ensure the election of Eqbal. Saleh replied that if that was the case there was nothing he could do except withdraw his name from consideration for the office. He pointed out that under the terms of the new law on this subject, His Majesty had final choice from among three names presented by the University Senate. If His Majesty wanted Eqbal, that was the end of the matter and there was no purpose in anyone else even considering the office.

In the meantime, the present University Chancellor, Dr. Ali Akbar SIASI, had been corresponding with Dr. Musa AMID, Dean of the Law School and Chairman of the Majlis Education Committee, who was also a candidate for the Chancellorship. Siasi asked that the committee declare that the legislature did not intend that the provision of the new law that limits a Chancellor to two terms (Siasi is now finishing his fourth term) should apply to the incumbent, i.e. himself. Whether or not his arguments had any effect on the Majlis, he at least succeeded in convincing the University Senate that his case was a good one. When the elections were held last week, he received 24 out of a possible 27 votes, with Eqbal receiving 23 and Dr. Amid 18. This vote may reasonably be interpreted as marking the Senate's expression of respect for Siasi and resentment at Minister of Education Jafari, who had been behind the revision of the method for choosing the University Chancellor, in great part in order to eliminate Siasi, and who had more recently served as the Shah's agent in the matter.

The fact that Jafari took orders directly from the Shah and campaigned for Eqbal without informing the Prime Minister had infuriated Zahedi. The latter is naturally bitter against Eqbal because of the Senator's well-known ambitions to displace him. He pointedly asked Jafari whether the Minister of Education considered himself a member of his, Zahedi's, Government or not, and told him firmly that in the future he should not accept missions from His Majesty without informing the Prime Minister and allowing time for the latter to discuss the matter with the Shah if he felt that were necessary.

FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM:

William Koren Jr.
William Koren, Jr.
Counselor of Embassy
for Political Affairs

Copies to:
American Embassy London

CONFIDENTIAL

شماره.....

تاریخ.....

پیوست.....

دربار شاهنشاهی

February 13th. 1955

My dear Loy,

Although pressure of work has prevented my writing to you since your departure, I have, through mutual friends, had good news of you and rejoice to know that you are well and, as usual, hard at work.

Did you have an opportunity of calling on His Imperial Majesty on his return to New-York for a good long talk and exchange of views?

From all accounts the visit of Their Majesties to America has been most enjoyable and, I am sure, beneficial to their health. I trust that the conversations which the Shahenshah had with the President, the Secretary of State and the Military Authorities were useful.

No doubt you have fully briefed the new Ambassador, Mr. Julius Holmes, who is reputed to be capable and well-versed in economic matters.

You will remember that when Their Excellencies Senator Tagizadeh, Mr. Abdollah Entezam and myself called on you on December 27th 1954 we discussed the desirability of establishing an American University in Iran.

Not long ago I was informed by Mr. Koren, Counsellor of your Embassy, that Mr. Hoskins of the American University in Beyrout might come to Teheran to talk over the matter with us.

Owing, however, to the pressure of Mr. Hoskins' engagements, this was not found possible for the present and his visit has been postponed to a later date.

شماره .....

تاریخ .....

پیوست .....

دربار شاهنشاهی

Meanwhile, Mr. Oliver Johnson Caldwell, Assistant Commissioner for International Education at the United States Office of Education, passing through Teheran on his way to India and the Far East, lunched with us on Friday the IIth inst.

I availed myself of the opportunity to explain to him in detail that which we have in mind and very much at heart. Mr. Caldwell seemed responsive and pointed out that several countries have of late benefited from what is called the land-grant system. Turkey and Pakestan, for example, have of late established Universities with American assistance.

Perhaps through the channel of Point Four something might be done to carry out our desires.

Enclosed you will find a memorandum summing up our views on the subject. A copy was handed to Mr. Caldwell by Mr. Alam yesterday.

We should all be extremely grateful if you would continue to lend us your good offices to reach our target.

With warm regards to Mrs. Henderson from us both, believe me, dear Loy, yours sincerely,

Hoveyda

His Excellency
The Honourable Loy Henderson,
State Department , WASHINGTON DC.

شماره .....

تاریخ .....

پیوست .....

دربار شاهنشاهی

Every year a number of Iranian young men and women travel to the countries of the West to continue their studies and imbibe occidental culture.Their object is also to profit from the experience of those countries in the various fields of science,industry and education.

Although the assimilation of western learning together with the acquisition of the scientific and industrial methods of of progressive countries are most welcome and have helped us in fulfilling our object which is the advancement of our nation,nevertheless the conditions in which this purpose is at present achieved are not without certain blemishes and shortcomings.

For example:when the youth of Iran go abroad for study,they are necessarily deprived for a number of years of the sollicitude and affection of their parents,they are constrained to live in an atmosphere which is unfamiliar to them,without the advantages of parental supervision.

Many of these young people because of their lengthy sojourn in foreign lands,lose touch with their homeland and forget its exigencies,when they return to their native country they do not easily readapt themselves to the circumstances,and in many cases are confronted with the unfortunate consequences of their lack of understanding of their surroundings.Quite a number of other young men, attracted by the high standard of life and the amenities of America, are reluctant to return to their motherland,they marry and seek naturalisation as citizens of the United States.

The provision of foreign exchange also frequently meets with difficulties and harmfully affects the smooth course of studies of our young men and women.

On the other hand,owing to the fact that education outside of

دربار شاهنشاهی

Iran entails heavy expense, a large number of worthy and talented students have not the means to continue to acquire knowledge abroad; thus it comes about that the advantages of education in America and Europe are the monopoly of the wealthier classes.

In view of the foregoing facts several iranian circles, interested in educational and social matters and, at the same time, convinced of the benefits to be derived from western science and education in the development of our intelligenzia, have come to the conclusion that if it were possible to attract the attention of the American and European authorities to the advisability of setting up in Iran a University on the lines of existing foreign institutions of higher learning, well equipped and provided with outstanding foreign teachers, this would be one of the greatest boons that could be conferred on Iranian students and a unique opportunity for the satisfaction of their thirst for modern knowledge. It would also remove many difficulties which today impede our acquisition of modern techniques.

Other countries of the Near and Middle East having benefited from such foreign institutions, it is our desire to be similarly favoured.

The hopes and expectations of the interested circles turn in the first place towards the United States of America which have frequently taken the initiative and the leadership in such useful educational matters, never failing to help other nations. The American University of Beyrout is an outstanding example of what can be done in this field.

Should the University we have in mind be established in Iran, enabling our students to profit in their own homeland by the advantages of modern education such as can be obtained in the most advanced countries, there is no doubt that the existence and influence of

شماره .....

تاریخ .....

پیوست .....

دربار شاهنشاهی

this seat of higher learning would profoundly affect all our other educational institutions. If it were found that owing to financial straits the setting up of a new University on a large scale might not be immediately feasible, we could begin on a smaller dimension by establishing only a few faculties such as those of medecine, science and technology, teachers college and agriculture, leaving the extension of the curriculum to such time as funds were available.

It seems to us that in trying to reach our goal, the first step would be for a committee of expert American educationalists to visit Iran, as soon as possible, for a preliminary study of the situation. Decisions as to the locality of the University, the number of faculties, the contributions which America and Iran should respectively make in this mutually beneficial intellectual partnership might be reached as a result of the survey.

We have every hope that the Government and People of America will favourably consider our suggestion and give us the benefit of their valuable cooperation. /.

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMCONSULATE, Tabriz

22
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 22, 1955
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA 4	INFO Rmk-2 ob-6 P-1 Ahrp-2 ICA-10
	REC'D 10/27	OTHER Cu-5 USIA-10 AEW-5

SUBJECT: Replacement of Dean of Tabriz University Faculty of Letters.

On October 15 Dr. Mohamed TALIMI, Dean of the Faculty of Letters at Tabriz University for the last four years, departed Tabriz to fill a new assignment as Assistant Dean of the Teachers Training Faculty at Tehran University. On October 20, Dr. Mayhar NAWABI was elected as Talimi's replacement by the teachers at the Faculty of Letters by a vote of 9 to 6.

This change follows four months of persistent rumors that Dr. Talimi would be replaced as Dean of the Faculty of Letters. Although Talimi is conceded to have been well qualified academically for the position he held, according to all reports, he was the most disliked person at the University, both among the faculty and the student body. University sources report him a very difficult personality, being ill-tempered and insulting in manner toward his colleagues and students. He is also said to have been a martinet, administering the Faculty of Letters like the principal of a grade school. One example cited of this was his practice of peering through classroom keyholes to ascertain whether the professors were on the job lecturing the class. A vivid instance of his ability to antagonize people occurred in April, 1954, when five professors were moved to administer him a severe beating which subsequently resulted in their transfer from Tabriz University. (Tabriz Despatch No. 34, May 1, 1954).

In contrast to Dr. Talimi, his successor, Dr. Nawabi, appears to be popular among the faculty and students alike. He is also considered well qualified for the position of Dean. Nawabi graduated from the University of Tehran with a Doctorate in Persian Literature and has taught at Tabriz University for the past eight years. Until recently, Dr. Nawabi was also employed by the Educational Section of OM/I in Tabriz. Members of the Consulate have found him very friendly and cooperative.

Robert B. Dreessen
American Consul

Copy to Tehran.

RBDreessen/kch
REPORTER

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PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : USIS Tehran
Joint USIA-STATE DEPT.

32
DESP. NO.

0 0 3 5 0 8

TO : ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON~~

October 31, 1955
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
4	State 20	I/S IOP/N ICS IAN IRI IOP/G IPS IBS
	REC'D 11-7	INFO OTHER ICA CIA

NOV 7 4 39 PM '55

SUBJECT: Appointment of A New President to Tabriz University

Dr. Reza Zadeh Shaffagh, in a conversation with the reporting officer, stated that he had been asked by the Minister of Education to assume the position of President of Tabriz University.

Dr. Shaffagh, who comes from the Tabriz area, is presently a professor in the School of Literature, teaching philosophy, has agreed to assume the position on the provision that the Ministry of Education will go to the Majlis and ask that a bill be introduced which will give Dr. Shaffagh the power to administer the university independently of any control from Tehran.

Dr. Shaffagh reported that he would not take on the job unless he was given this support as he realized how difficult the position would be to fill successfully if he was bound to direction from Tehran. He stated that the Minister of Education had approached him in regard to the position on a basis that he must accept the appointment as a duty to his country. Dr. Shaffagh said that he felt that there was a great deal to be done in Tabriz and that he stood a fair chance of succeeding in building the university to a standard which would enable the university to make a large contribution to the future development of the area.

Dr. Shaffagh stated that if he accepted the position, he expected to ask for a great deal of cooperation from USIS and he was assured by the reporting officer that all requests would be studied carefully and honored insofar as it was possible.

The Ministry of Education was in attendance during part of the above reported conversation and verified in general principles the contents thereof.

C Robert Payne

C. Robert Payne
Public Affairs Officer

CRPayne:mz
REPORTER

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LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 22, 1955

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Last February when I was in Iran I had several long talks with Hosein Ala about the establishment of free education in Iran, but I never expected him to put on paper what he has in a letter just received, the text of which was another matter of business which I was conducting in behalf of Entezam.

Such a letter from the Prime Minister is an unusual commitment in writing from any Persian Official and I think perhaps Mr. Hoover, if you think so.

The re-establishment of the Alborz College in Teheran on a more comprehensive basis than before would be as it always was in the past, the most potent propaganda for the West.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable Loy Henderson
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 22, 1955

Your Excellency:

I am happy to receive your letter and I want to hasten to congratulate you upon your escape from the assassin's bullet in the recent incident in the Mosque. Your friends there and over the world were gratified that this attempt was abortive. Iran is th be congratulated upon your preservation.

I hope that the Department of Military Affairs will be able promptly to advise the Ambassador in Washington that they have no objection to us permitting Iranian students to take collegiate military training as guests of the American Army. The training is valuable and the Iranian boys like to have it in order to be with their classmates, all of whom are taking it.

It is very gratifying that you express again from your distinguished position of leadership the desire of Iran for an American university. I note that this proposal has been transmitted to America by Ambassador Henderson and I will on the first occasion possible talk with Mr. Henderson and Mr. Hoover about the matter. I am particularly pleased that you have talked to Mr. Hulac, because in Mr. Hulac we have the man who would make the ablest possible President for such a university.

The only possibility that I would see prior to my conversation with Mr. Henderson for the opening of an American university in Iran would be in the reopening of the Alborz College under the auspices which it formerly had and with the funds which may remain of those paid in indemnity by the Iranian Government. If the Iranian Government would authorize the reopening of Alborz College under its former auspices with the return of what remains of its former properties, I think we could make a strong appeal for the use of the indemnity funds which may remain in America.

I will talk to Mr. Henderson and will communicate with you after that interview.

Meanwhile my regards, my congratulations and our good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

His Excellency Hosein Ala
The Prime Minister
Teheran, Iran

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

November 26, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: NEA - MR. ALLEN

Attached is a letter dated November 22 which I have just received from President Hutchison of Lafayette College. You will note that this letter contains a reference to the letter which Mr. Ala gave me before my departure from Iran expressing the hope that the United States could establish an American-operated university in Iran. I believe that the original of Mr. Ala's letter is in the possession of NEA.

You will note that in the latter part of President Hutchison's letter to Mr. Ala, copy of which is attached to his letter to me, President Hutchison indicates that he will talk with me about the opening of an American university in Iran and, particularly, about the possible reopening of the Alborz College.

I suggest that perhaps GTI could draft a letter to President Hutchison for my signature reiterating my interest in the matter but pointing out that since I am not at the present time handling Iranian affairs I have referred his letter to you and that you or someone in your Bureau would answer President Hutchison's letter to me in greater detail.

Loy W. Henderson

Attachment

State Dept. O FRAIS

11/29

~~POTG~~
WMR
~~CWR~~
~~GRT~~ - for action

~~NSH~~
~~NPG~~

Memo to Mr. Allen from Mr. Henderson attaching ltr from Mr. Hutchison of Lafayette College re free education in Iran

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 15, 1955

TO: O - Mr. Henderson

FROM: NEA - Mr. Allen

SUBJECT: Suggested Reply to Mr. Hutchison's Letter to You Regarding the Possible Reopening of Alborz College.

Since there are so many unresolved questions in connection with this project, such as financing, the attitude of the Presbyterian Mission, Iranian reaction to Christian teaching, NEA would prefer not to make a detailed reply at this time to Mr. Hutchison's letter to you but would be glad to discuss the matter with him at his convenience. Attached is a suggested acknowledgment for your signature.

I would prefer a non-denominational college like the one in Beirut to a re-opening of Alborz, but if the latter is the only way to get a college going, I would take that. It might later become non-denom. FRA

Attachments:

1. Letter from Mr. Ala to Mr. Henderson - Tab A.
2. Letter from Mr. Hutchison to Mr. Henderson - Tab B.
3. Suggested reply to Mr. Hutchison's letter - Tab C.

NEA:GTI:HPGray:bmh

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : USIS, TEHRAN
JOINT USIA-STATE MESSAGE

223
DESP. NO.

TO : [redacted]

May 18, 1956
DATE

REF : Dept. of State A-April 2, 1956: Conversation with Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	
5	PS State-20	I/S IAN N/G ICS IRI	JUN 8 1956
	REC'D 6/8	INFO OTHER CIA	

SUBJECT: School of Journalism, University of Tehran

The memorandum of conversation as reported in the reference indicates a lack of careful thought on the part of Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh.

To install a School of Journalism of the size and scope recommended by Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh would accomplish nothing but to create a large group of frustrated potential journalists.

The opportunities for trained journalists in Iran are definitely limited both by scarcity of good daily newspapers and the inability of local publishers to afford staffs of journalists who, because of their education, would demand a scale of pay far above the publisher's ability to pay.

To add a large group of frustrated journalists to the growing list of unemployed professionally trained people, would be to increase the potential number of targets for the proponents of ideologies contrary to the best interests of the United States.

A department of journalism in the University could at the outset provide courses of instruction for twenty-five to thirty students, a great many of whom for the first two years would be working journalists. As literacy grows in Iran and the circulation of newspapers increases the opportunity for employment will likewise increase. However, this development is still at least two or three years away.

The idea of including in a course of journalism a subsidiary course of instruction in the mechanical production aspects of newspaper and magazine publishing has merit. However, it is felt that if such a course were introduced into the University curriculum, the University should be prepared to provide the necessary machinery for instruction which could also be used for the preparation of the University publications.

USIS/Tehran appreciates the excellent report sent by IES and will keep the Agency and the Department informed of developments following the return of Dr. Eqbal and Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh.

C Robert Payne

C. Robert Payne
Public Affairs Officer

CRPayne&js
REPORTER

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ERKEK KISMI
ROBERT KOLEJ
MÜDÜRLÜK
BEBEK POSTA KUTUSU 8
İSTANBUL

ISTANBUL AMERICAN COLLEGE
ROBERT COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BEBEK POST BOX 8
ISTANBUL - TURKEY
CABLE "ROBCOLLEGE ISTANBUL"

June 5, 1956

Ack. 6/25/56
IES:URD

The Honorable
Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear President Eisenhower:

As the new president of America's oldest college overseas I want to thank you for your splendid address at Baylor University. You have given expression to the spirit which has guided Robert College and its sister institution for women in Istanbul for many years.

These are private and secular colleges, dedicated to two fundamental aims: the education of young people in Turkey, and the strengthening of the friendship and co-operation between our two countries. In founding and supporting these two colleges, private Americans have given generously of their money and energies and, inşallah, (God willing) they will continue to do so, but the Turks, to whom these colleges are a cherished opportunity, have given us at least as much in return--their trust and confidence. This is the product of what you describe as "cooperation among equals."

In all humility those of us working here believe that what we are doing is one of the most creative aspects of America's relations with its fellow countries in the world.

Your conviction that "the opportunity here for each educated American is invaluable beyond the comprehension almost of anyone of us" is a source of great encouragement to the dedicated people--both Americans and Turks--who work to make this ideal a reality.

I woud be happy to assist in any way desired to bring your proposal into effect and I am sure I can pledge you the cooperation of all those connected with Robert College and the American College for Girls in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Duncan S. Ballantine

Duncan S. Ballantine
President

İSTANBUL AMERİKAN KOLEJİ
ERKEK KISMI
ROBERT KOLEJ
MÜDÜRLÜK
BEBEK POSTA KUTUSU 8
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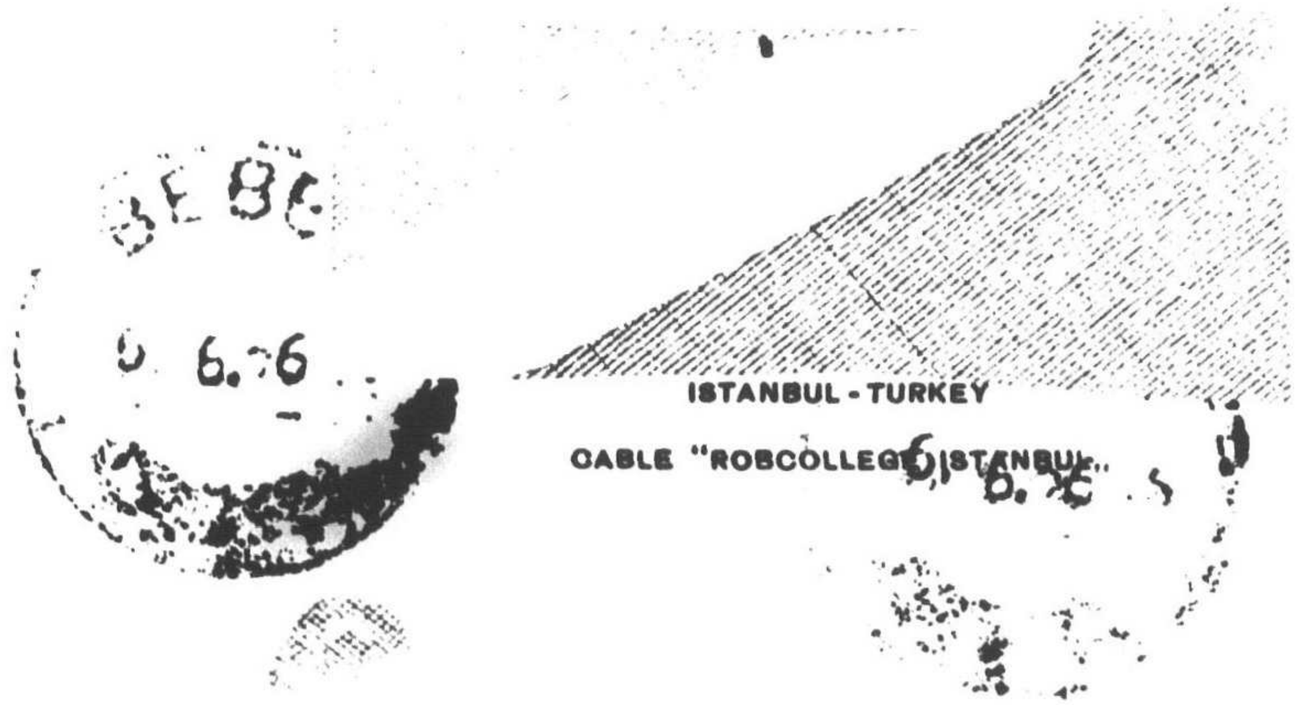

UÇAKLA

The Honorable
Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.
U.S.A.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

3579

June 13, 1956

P - Mr. ~~Platt~~ DeLong

Attached is a letter to the President from Mr. Duncan Ballantine. He offers to assist the President in any way concerning the President's Baylor University proposal.

As I understand it, the action in the Department on the Baylor proposal is not yet clearly established. Both C and U/OP have responsibilities as well as the P area. However, I think that a reply to Mr. Ballantine should go forward from the P area, cleared with C and U/OP.

Deadline: June 21.

R. K. Sherwood
S/S-RO

Attachment:

Letter to Pres from Mr. Duncan Ballantine, June 5.

cc: Mr. Cottman (C)
Mr. Richards (U/OP)

S/S RO
3579

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To Remain With Correspondence)

TO Mr. Fisher Howe
Director, Executive Secretariat
Department of State

PROMPT HANDLING IS ESSENTIAL. WHEN DRAFT REPLY IS REQUESTED THE BASIC CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE RETURNED. IF ANY DELAY IN SUBMISSION OF DRAFT REPLY IS ENCOUNTERED, PLEASE TELEPHONE OFFICE OF THE STAFF SECRETARY.

Date June 13, 1956

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

ACTION:

Comment _____

Draft reply _____

For direct reply _____

For your information _____

For necessary action _____

For appropriate handling x

See below _____

Remarks:

GPO 16—71264-1

By direction of the President:

A. J. Goodpaster
A. J. GOODPASTER
Staff Secretary

AIR POUCH

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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000125

FROM : USIS, Tehran
JOINT USIA-STATE MESSAGE

259
DESP. NO.

TO : [redacted]

June 21, 1956
DATE

REF : Tehran Despatch No. 223, May 18; Dept. of State A-April 2, 1956.

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	
5	State 20	1/S IAN IANH ICS IRI IOA/M	
	REC'D 7/3	INFO OTHER State CIA	JUL 3 5 04 PM '56

SUBJECT: Journalism School, University of Tehran

As he has previously, Dr. Mostafa Mesbazadeh, publisher of Keyhan, is playing both the British and ourselves in an attempt to realize his ambitious objectives in connection with the establishment of a School of Journalism at the University of Tehran.

The Press Counselor of the British Embassy told the reporting officer Dr. Mesbazadeh approached him June 18th for aid in establishing the journalism school. Said aid was to consist of one or two professors and technical equipment such as presses, linotype, etc. (the identical request he made in Washington in the reference). Burrows answered that he understood the Americans had been asked to provide a professor to establish a journalism school and had agreed to the request. Mesbazadeh quickly answered that the request he was making of the British was different from the request made to the Americans. Burrows replied he would be glad to examine such a request if it was submitted in writing by the University.

On June 20 Burrows told the reporting officer that he had received a call from Dr. Manuchehr Eqbal, Chancellor of the University, saying he wished to discuss Dr. Mesbazadeh's request. Burrows suggested the reporting officer be included because of the American journalism professor who is coming to the University this fall. Eqbal replied he would prefer having the discussion include only Burrows, Mesbazadeh and himself.

The reporting officer has been exchanging information on Mesbazadeh's activities with Mr. Burrows ever since it was discovered some months ago that the gentleman was making the same requests of both Embassies. The most notable example was in connection with USIS' Operation Schoolhouse project. Avowing his firm support to the USIS Deputy PAO's project he was simultaneously suggesting the same project to the British and when he was turned down by the University Senate failed to notify USIS but went ahead with a substitute plan whereby the British Information Service through the British Council established a journalism school for working journalists.

The reporting officer and Mr. Burrows will meet prior to June 27th and Mr. Burrows will be filled in in more detail with the contents of the reference

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CRPayne:js
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888.432/6-21-56

CS/W

and a discussion will ensue toward the possibility of suggesting a regional journalism school for working journalists and journalism students to be established at Tehran University as a Baghdad Pact project.

The Agency and the Department will be kept advised of all developments.

C. Robert Payne
Public Affairs Officer

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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000819

000819

FROM : USIS Tehran

Joint USIA-STATE

TO : [redacted]

6
DESP. NO.

July 6, 1956
DATE

REF : USIS Tehran Despatches No. 259, June 21 and No. 223, May 18, 1956

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	
4	PS - 3 State - 20	INFO	I/S I/R IAN IRI IBS ICS IAE/X
	REC'D 7-24	OTHER	CIA Karachi, Tehran, Baghdad, Ankara, London

JUL 25 5 00 PM '56

SUBJECT: Public Relations Course at the University of Tehran-For Baghdad Pact Project

On June 27, Mr. Reginald Burrows, Press Counselor for The British Embassy, called on the reporting officer to discuss his approach to be taken with Dr. Manuchehr Eqbal, Chancellor of the Tehran University and Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh, Publisher of Keyhan, in regard to their request from the British for the establishment of a Journalism School at the University of Tehran.

It was agreed in the meeting that Mr. Burrows would listen to the request to be made noting if the details were the same as the request made by Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh in Washington as reported in the first reference. If he found the approach was the same, he was going to wait for an opportunity to let both parties know that he and I had been discussing the subject together and comparing notes.

Following his interview on June 28, Mr. Burrows called the reporting officer to say that the approach had been exactly the same as that made in Washington and that both parties had been very careful in avoiding the mention that any approach had been made to the Americans. After the approach had been outlined in detail, Mr. Burrows casually mentioned that he and the reporting officer were most interested in the planned project although they felt it would take very careful review and, of course, would have to be referred to our home offices.

As agreed, Mr. Burrows dropped the suggestion that perhaps the creation of a School of Public Relations rather than a Journalism School would be more practical, particularly if it were made as a Baghdad Pact project.

Mr. Burrows reported that the conclusion of the meeting was that Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh would call Mr. Payne immediately and arrange for a three-way meeting to work out details which would then be presented in a four-way meeting with Dr. Eqbal for his consideration and approval.

On June 30, at a party in the home of the Deputy Public Affairs Officer, Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh expressed a desire to get together with the PAO and Mr. Burrows at an early date to discuss the creation of a School of Public Affairs at Tehran University, which would be of service to all Baghdad Pact countries. Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh stated that the course would be conducted in the English language, "because that is the official language of the Pact" and it would be a great contribution to the coordination of information activities among the

CS-1

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REPORTER

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that members. It was interesting to see how quickly Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh picked up the suggestion dropped by Mr. Burrows.

The meeting requested by Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh will take place within the next week.

On July 3, Mr. Burrows and the reporting officer met to discuss an approach to be taken with Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh, as well as to reach preliminary agreement for presentation to our home offices of the limits to which we think such a course should go.

It was decided to recommend to Washington and London that the course consist of a course in journalism theory and practice, a course in radio including studio engineering, programming, script writing, etc., publications, including layout production and distribution methods, photography, still and motion picture, and a general course on the subject giving stress to the organization of government information programs, communications, psychology, coordination, libel laws and organization.

This course would require the services of five well-trained professors, one of whom would head the staff and handle the general course. It would be expected to last one academic year.

It was agreed that on the supplying of printing equipment such as printing presses, linotypes, etc. we should take a joint stand that such equipment would not fit into the proposed course and was a separate course in itself more properly handled in a trade school.

It was agreed that the reporting officer would just listen at the meeting with Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh and take notes on his requests. No encouragement will be given to Dr. Mesbah-Zadeh by either Mr. Burrows or the reporting officer except to say we will submit his requests to our respective governments, as well as study the problem locally toward the end of having some concrete suggestions to make at the meeting with Dr. Eqbal.

It was agreed that both Mr. Burrows and the reporting officer would, in the interim, advise our governments of our thinking on the matter and request approval for pursuing the general line presented herein.

The idea would be to have Iran propose the plan at Baghdad Pact meetings this fall and winter--possibly at the Counter-Subversion Committee meeting in Tehran in September, stating the University had been assured of support for the project from the U.S. and Great Britain. The course would run during the 1957-58 academic year, but if an urgency was felt to get it started sooner, an American professor who will be teaching journalism at the University of Tehran this year could be asked to teach a special course the last semester of the academic year for the group chosen by the Pact countries.

It is felt there is a great need for such a course in each of the area Pact countries, particularly in Iran and great benefits could arise from the project.

Mr. Burrows feels his country could not supply more than two professors and more probably only one. This would mean the U.S. probably would have to supply four.

It is requested that the Agency send copies of this Despatch to U.S. PAO's in Pact country capitals in hopes they will comment on the general suggestion to USIA with a copy to Tehran.

The Agency's comments and direction is requested as soon as possible.

C. Robert Payne

C. Robert Payne
Public Affairs Officer

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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(Security Classification)

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This [illegible] to the [illegible] FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : USIS, TEHRAN

DESP. NO. 59

TO : JOINT USIA-STATE MESSAGE

DATE August 25, 1956

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT. INFO	
	State-00	IS INV IC IS IC-IBS	
	REC'D 9-5	OTHER CIA ICA	SEP 5 4 15 PM '56

SUBJECT: Attitudes and Activities of Students at University of Tehran.

888.432

SUMMARY:

The Tudeh Party activities at the University have been put down. But in the opinion of a small minority of professors the students are bitter, disillusioned and resentful towards the Americans for the slender chances open to them in Iran for decent jobs or professional advancement. There is reason to believe, however, that Dr. Eqbal the University Chancellor plans to introduce in the near future some undergraduate activities which may help to offset the disgruntlement of the students and give them some outlets for their imagination and energy.

* * * * * *

One of the problems confronting the Chancellor of the University of Tehran, Dr. Manuchehr Eqbal is that concerning the extra-curricular activities of the undergraduates, a matter tinged with potentially explosive political repercussions in Iran. The activities of undergraduates in Middle Eastern universities are traditionally looked upon with suspicion and concern by their faculty and by their parents. The students at the University of Tehran are no exception. During the Mossadeq regime when the political situation was on the boil the undergraduates in routine fashion, took it upon themselves to articulate and demonstrate in the most boisterous and violent ways they could stir up. The result was to have the government clamp all speaking efforts and political gatherings under martial law and to break up all demonstrations, if necessary, by force.

The fall of Mossadeq on August 19, 1953 and the firm administration of General Zahedi removed soldiers from the campus of Tehran University but did not remove martial law from the city nor the rigid ban which still governs all student activities at the University. At this time there are no student clubs of any sort at the University.

In order to understand the situation more clearly it may be helpful to take a backward glance and see the University with its political complexions as it appeared five years ago. In 1951 there were approximately 6067 students at the University and a faculty of 480. Of these two bodies, so far as can be ascertained, 562 students were Tudeh Party members or Communists and of the

faculty approximately 21 were known to be Tudehs. At that time the Tudeh party was overtly active and counted upon the allegiance as well as the constant activity of undergraduates. They (the students) readily complied and used the campus, the dormitories, the streets and the Bazar as places to spout their doctrine and spread their pamphlets. When General Zahedi took office as Prime Minister in August, 1953, the strongest injunction he had from the Shah was to put his heel on the Tudeh Party and get rid of it. This applied to young and old alike - and particularly to the noisy, bad-mannered youngsters at the University. General Zahedi proceeded to fulfill the Shah's command. The Young Tudehs disappeared. The older Tudehs on the faculty quieted down and changed their talk. A dozen members of the faculty, including some prominent professors, were dismissed. Most of them were restored to status within the next few months, after renouncing the Tudeh Party and pledging allegiance to the Shah.

At the present time in a student body of 8,901 there are very few known Tudeh Party members. In a faculty of 518, perhaps 9 are suspected of having Communist tendencies, which they are carefully concealing in order to keep their jobs. Most professors, it appears, recognize the need for the drastic restrictions placed upon freedom of speech and other what-we-would-consider normal and usual activities, while the administrative offices of the University optimistically report that Communism is a forgotten thing on the campus. However, at least three well known professors are critical in their feelings towards University activities and two of them are willing to blame the Americans in large part for the present curtailments.

Dr. Mohammad Bagher Houshar, professor of Education in the faculty of Arts and Letters, is quite convinced that Communism is a forgotten matter in the University but he believes that leftist liberalism is growing rapidly among the students. This stems from the needy students who receive support during their years of study but who must face the world of patronage and favoritism when they emerge. The unfortunate result is that those very students who have been aided by the University in achieving an education, graduate with a chip on their shoulders and a bitterness towards the social system of their Country which they might not have had if they had never attended the University. Dr. Houshar says that the suppression of free speech and free thinking in the University, as far as political ideas are concerned, has never been as strong as it is now.

Dr. Assdollah Bijan of the National Teachers' College stated frankly that the present strangling of the University is only a temporary lid over boiling water and that never in Iran has the disgrace been so shameful as under the present social system. Students used to blame the British and the Russians for the shocking social conditions of the past. Today in their frustration and despair at not being able to find decent jobs, says Dr. Bijan, they are blaming the Americans. There is no vocational guidance at the University, the curriculum is not geared to the needs of society. Thousand of graduates haunt the ministries in search of jobs. Free enterprise is not encouraged. As a result disillusion has set in and the resulting bitterness is taken out upon the likeliest scapegoat, in this case more often that not the Americans.

Dr. Bijan stated that Dr. Eqbal cannot remedy this situation nor is he in a position to do so if he wished to because the people blame the political elite and the latter in turn blame the people. "Who is to save society from this situation?", asks Dr. Bijan.

Dr. Mohamad Ali Hekmat, a well known leftist and Professor of Political Science in the Faculty of Law, pointed out that students are not allowed to think about their country or how it affects their lives. Without student clubs or extra-curricular outlets the students become bitter and eager to blame someone or some group for their limited opportunities. Many of them blame the Americans because they believe the Americans are responsible for many of their misfortunes, for example they believe the elections were held so that more pro-American elements could enter the political picture. The students are rather careful not to admit these views openly and certainly not on the campus, but the bitterness is there and the frustration continues basically because many students realize Iranian society has no place for them. "Is there any other definition for this society other than a police state?", asks Dr. Hekmat.

Dr. Zabihollah Safa, the public relations officer of the University takes a more optimistic view of the political feelings of the student body. He believes students feel they have better opportunities to achieve high academic standards, far higher than at any previous period in the University. Dr. Safa is convinced, and he should be in a good position to know, that there is nothing alarming in the students' political attitudes at the present time.

In any case there are signs that a more liberal attitude may have a chance of prevailing. For some time the Chancellor has been made increasingly aware of the restlessness of the students and the need for legitimate outlets in selected undergraduate activities. It is reasonably certain that the various Universities he visited during his American trip made a strong impression upon his up-to-recently adamant stand against undergraduate on-campus clubs or activities of any kind. Within a month the Chancellor told the CAO that the place to begin such activities was in the fields of sports, literary clubs and social organizations, but not with political or debating clubs (see Sub Despatch No. 29, July 24, 1956). David Albritton, the U.S. Specialist Grantee in athletics, is already working closely with the Director of Athletics at the University and it seems possible that one or more student organizations may appear at the University in the course of the next academic year.

C Robert Payne

C. ROBERT PAYNE
Public Affairs Officer

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: USIS, Tehran

85
DESP. NO.

TO: JOINT USIA-STATE MESSAGE

September 17, 1956
DATE

REF: Circular USITO 93, August 28, 6 p.m.
USIS Tehran Despatch 22, July 18, 1956

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For Dept Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	INFO	OTHER
	NEA	IRI I/C IPS ICS IBS IAG		CIA ICA
	REC'D 9-24			

SUBJECT: Baghdad Pact Public Relations Course at Tehran University

It is requested that the Agency and the Department consider the decision forwarded in the first reference.

The comment starting on page 2 of the second reference perhaps did not put enough emphasis on the importance of using USIA personnel for this project, and the purpose of this message is to develop more fully that subject.

It is essential to the success of the project that the original American faculty members remain a full two years. All continuity would be lost if the American professors remained for only a one year grant and would not be able to see the entire organizing phase through.

This project offers many possibilities for the inclusion of program objectives. It would be impossible to capitalize upon these possibilities if it were necessary to work with exchange program grantees. Part of the plan as foreseen by USIS, Tehran is that the professors would be informed in detail not only of the Iran Country Plan but would be kept current with all developments and activities of the Counter Subversion Division and Public Relations Division of the Baghdad Pact Organization and could use their information as a guideline for teaching. They could also be of assistance in an advisory capacity to the Iranian representatives on Part CS and PR divisions, if not to the entire Pact organization. This would not be possible if they were exchange program grantees.

It is the intention of Iran to present the proposal at the October CSC meeting, and to announce that Tehran University has been assured of support by Brits and ourselves. USIS, Tehran has informed Dr. Eqbal (Chancellor of Tehran University and Minister of Court) that the U.S. will support the project with as many as four professors if needed.

The first reference questions the need for four American professors and two British. It is not intended that there would be that many professors. Dr. Eqbal's planning envisions a total of four professors. The Agency and the Department were asked for reaction toward supplying four professors, just in case the British could not supply any professors. It is felt most desirable to have three American professors out of the four.

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The general curriculum to be presented by Dr. Eqbal is outlined on page one of the second enclosure of the second reference. This will be defined in more detail if the Iranians proposal is acted upon favorably by the CSC. The American professor of Journalism who has just arrived in Tehran will be consulted fully on this subject.

Naturally any offers by Iraq, Pakistan or Turkey to furnish qualified professors will be given the fullest consideration. Dr. Eqbal has expressed an interest in having one professor from each of the above countries to handle the supplementary courses dealing with the history, economics, culture etc. of all Baghdad Pact member countries in the area.

The project will be in fact a Baghdad Pact project and will be presented as an Iranian devised project in which Tehran University has requested and received U.S. and British assurances of support.

The first reference refers to the course as "apparently at undergraduate level". The course will be basic and the available students will possess little or no background for such a course. Therefore, instruction will have to be, in the opinion of the reporting officer, at a high school level or at the very most, junior college level. Great emphasis will have to be placed on doing rather than on theory. Local mores and traditions, common to the area, must be given full consideration in the instruction. To dwell on a free press with students who know nothing but a Government controlled press would be impractical. However, the fact that achievement of responsibility in the Press is a pre-requisite to a free press is practical. All of these things would be explained to the visiting professors but it is felt the Agency and the Department should keep these factors in mind when recruiting candidates for the positions.

My British colleague reports that he has had no response as yet to his request for cooperation.

Comments are requested from all addressees.

The Agency is requested to forward copies of this despatch to London, Baghdad, Ankara and Karachi.

C. Robert Payne

C. ROBERT PAYNE
Public Affairs Officer

CRPayne/wak

OUTGOING MESSAGE

VIA TELEGRAPH

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1956 OCT 11 PM 2 18

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888.432/10-1156

Tehran
Recommendations/Despatch 85 re Public Relations course Tehran University ~~impracticable~~ appear impractical following reasons:

1. If USIA personnel sent as professors result would be further variations in privileges salaries responsibilities relationships among Americans at University (Educational Exchange grantees already different from ICA College Contract personnel).

2. Shortage qualified USIA personnel.

3. USIA personnel could be sent only on basis Section 301 PL 402.

Other points// to be considered:

1. Second year renewals all grantee professors usually prevented by unwillingness US institutions spare regular faculty more than one year. Department believes it possibly able recruit professors two year assignments if given adequate advance notice project needs.

2. At discretion PAO all grantees should be acquainted objectives country plan as related their assignment; also their advice and ideas should be sought on matters within their competence.

3. Even for high school level courses at University Department as policy would send only US College professors.

4. Trained

Dist. Desired (Offices Only)

Drafted by: IAN:PPaddock:dys-10/10/56

Transmission and classification approved by: IAN:WBKing

Clearances: IES-Mrs. Alden; NEA/P-Mr. Kretzmann; NEA-Mr. Memminger — in draft

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4. Trained professors of public relations probably nonexistent; thus journalism professors preferred. [redacted]

Conclusion: Department will initiate proceedings send three professors journalism to Tehran University for "Baghdad Pact Public Relations Course" upon receipt specific request.

What is status professors and students other Pact nations including Britain? London Despatch 25 and Ankara TOUSI 107 being repeated to you.

STREIBERT

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : American Consulate, Meshed — DESP. NO. 17

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — DATE 611.88 October 18, 1956

REF :

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	INFO RM/R-2 OLI-6 EUR-5 P-1 U/CP-1 IE-3 KHORRAMSHAHR-1 ISFAHAN-1 SCS-2 TABRIZ-1 AMEMBASSY TEHRAN-1
	REC'D 10/26	OTHER CIA-12 USIA-10 OCB-1 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 SAVR-3

1956 OCT 18 PM 3 55

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SUBJECT: Comments on Re-opening of Alborz College Somewhere in Iran.

(3)

One of the most marked impressions made upon the reporting officer, since returning to Iran for a second assignment, has been the obviously high caliber of alumni of Alborz College whom he has met in Khorassan. It will be recalled that Alborz College of Tehran, a privately endowed American institution with teachers and staff supplied by the American Presbyterian Mission to Iran, was unfortunately closed by Reza Shah in 1940.

Since arriving in Meshed, the Consul has been struck by the fact that these people are almost invariably leaders in their respective communities and fields of endeavor. They include Parliment deputies, mayors, principal government employees, professional people, and businessmen. Such an outstanding group, particularly in comparison to other Iranians trained in Iran, and even many trained abroad, is significant. Why? What sets these people apart? As a group one might characterize them as follows; (1) pro-American, (2) more alert, self-assured, moderate, enlightened, and lacking feelings of xenophobia, (3) they are vitally interested and are actively participating in the development of Iran, (4) they have more community spirit, and (5) are more honest than their compatriots. Alborz graduates have been imbued with a different outlook. While in school, contacts with Iran and its problems have not been lost as in the case with students going abroad. Moreover, Alborz teachers have emphasized our strong points, and the glamour of the West has not affected these students and made them dissatisfied with life in Iran. One observes that it is unfortunate that there are not more Alborz graduates and regrets that there are no new graduates becoming available to supplement the ranks of and to take the place of the present-day leaders when they reach retirement age. In addition, it is important to emphasize that Alborz students have not been pro-Tudeh or pro-Communist, in contrast to some elements of the student body of Tehran University, for example. The re-opening of this school would certainly be a deterrent to the spread of Communism. Although the Soviets would undoubtedly object strenuously to this proposal, their objections might be looked upon as being an indication of the worthiness of the project.

While on consultation in the Department, the reporting officer recollects that this subject was brought to the attention of the Department by interested persons in the United States. Therefore, as of possible interest, some local comments are being forwarded.

-/During a recent

Robert R. Schott/ehd
REPORTER

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During a recent conversation with a group of Alborz graduates - Deputy Abdullah Saidi (Nishapur) and the Shadlu khans (one of whom is also a Deputy) - Deputy Saidi introduced the subject. Since the reporting officer has been thinking about the matter too, a lively conversation followed. The group agreed with Deputy Saidi that the re-opening of Alborz College would be welcomed by the Iranian people and would do much to further U.S.-Iranian relations.

The reporting officer pointed out the financial and physical problems of re-opening such a private, philanthropic sponsored institution and questioned whether the Central Government would welcome such a proposal. Deputy Saidi maintained that such an institution could be partially self-supporting and added that since education is so important to Iran, possibly some aid could be given the project from the American and Iranian governments (he probably meant predominantly U.S. aid). He said that as a member of the Majlis Committee on Education he believed that he could get Government approval to re-open Alborz College. The participants all agreed that it would probably be difficult to re-establish the institution in Tehran because of the prohibitive costs of land and present day high cost of building and living, and emphasized that it would be more practical to build such a school in Isfahan, for example, which, moreover, is more centrally located and would offer fewer distractions to the students. All agreed that such an institution should be partially self-supporting, and might even warrant Iranian Government financial help.

Dr. Joseph P. Cochran, head of the American Presbyterian Mission Hospital at Meshed, and a veteran of 35 years service in Iran stated that he doubted whether the Mission, from a financial point of view, could support such an institution nowadays, although he agreed wholeheartedly that the re-establishment of Alborz College would be a worthwhile project. He added that he believed the permission of the Iranian Government could be obtained.

The reporting officer believes strongly that the climate for re-opening the institution is good now and wishes to point out, on the basis of past events in Iran, that it might not always be so. Looking forward to the future, when United States aid diminishes and the Iranian Plan Organization is functioning more effectively, to have Alborz College as a symbol of the United States in Iran would be beneficial not only to Iran but to the United States as well.

Robert R. Schott.
Robert R. Schott,
American Consul

cc: AmEmbassy, Tehran.

Dept please pouch to Consulates
at Tabriz, Isfahan, and Khorramshahr

RRSchott/ehd

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Eqbal Manouchehr
RM/R

58.432

OCT 1956

Dear Dr. Eqbal:

Thank you for your letter of September 30. I enjoyed having the opportunity last spring to hear about your plans for a nuclear research center at Tehran University and am very much pleased that progress is being made toward its establishment.

I understand that negotiations are now underway here in Washington on a bilateral agreement for cooperation between Iran and the United States concerning the civil uses of atomic energy. I hope that Iran will derive great benefit from the realization of the peaceful and humanitarian purposes foreseen by this agreement.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

LOY W. HENDERSON

Loy W. Henderson

Manouchehr Eqbal, M.D.,
Chancellor,
University of Tehran,
Tehran, Iran.

NEA:GTI:HPGray:bmh
10/17/56

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, TEHRAN
JOINT STATE-USIA

229
DESP. NO.

TO : ~~THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.~~

August 29, 1957
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT	
67	NEA-4	INFO	RMR-2, OLI-8, IES-5, P-1, REC-2, EUR-5
	REC'D 9/13	OTHER	CIA-12, USIA-10, HEW-5, ARMY-4, NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Status of Students and Future Developments at Tehran University

SUMMARY

The University of Tehran was founded in 1934 and has been until recently dominated by the French tradition of instruction. With a current enrollment of more than 9000 students the university is today confronted with a number of problems which the new Chancellor, Dr. Ahmad Farhad, is working hard to solve. Student life at the university is non-existent in the terms known to American students. A majority of students live in Tehran, either at home or as boarders. About 800 live in dormitories in Amir-Abad, a large tract of land near the university, formerly the site of the U.S. Army barracks during the Second World War. Considerable dissatisfaction is apparent at the university where some students are still living in the old barracks, with few amenities and less comfort. Student organizations have traditionally been forbidden and it is only within the past few months that Dr. Farhad has announced his intention of building new dormitories and of developing a student-faculty relations program, a new cafeteria and a student cinema.

In this development USIS has been able to assist with the book presentation program, the visiting American professors, the grants to faculty members and a continuing series of discussions and conferences with the Chancellor, the Secretary General and various faculty deans.

* * * * * * *

The University of Tehran was founded on its present lines in 1934. Today it presents a strange complexity in its combination of growing size, academic standing, faculty ambitions and student life. It is a university operated by the government and basically the servant of the Shah. The Shah in the final analysis decides who will run it and has just demonstrated that decision when Dr. Eghbal was succeeded by Dr. Farhad, a close friend of the Shah and one of his physicians. Farhad is a radio-logist, a member of the faculty of the Medical School and, so far as is known, a complete novice in administering a university.

The university represents, first of all, a genuine effort on the part of the Government of Iran to make available the best educational equipment, laboratories and libraries that exist in this part of the Middle East. It has assembled some able professors and it is gradually attempting to raise the level of scholarship of the students. As an agency of the government the university serves the interests

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of a number of groups: it serves the government in providing a place for its outstanding academic personalities; it serves members of the faculty as a stepping stone to academic recognition and frequently to social and political promotion; it serves the students in enabling them to receive at practically no cost the best education in Iran.

The curriculum is still based on the French tradition in which memory is the key-note to academic prowess. For the most part students are expected in their examinations to turn back what the professor has presented in his lectures. No student pays tuition: his education is the gift of the government. The faculty has the status of civil service employees, along with the employees of the various ministries, officers in the armed services and officials in the police force.

Although Tehran University now ranks as the first of the four universities in Iran- there are universities, in incipient stages also in Shiraz, Tabriz and Meshed- it has small appeal to foreign students. During the past academic year there were fourteen foreign students at the university: one from the United States, two from England, two from Germany, one from France, two from India, two from Pakistan, three from Afghanistan and one from Turkey. These students enjoy the best living conditions available. They are given scholarships covering their room, board and incidental expenses and are housed in a dormitory above the faculty club in one of the most modern buildings on the campus. They live in circumstances superior to those of any other students living at the university. The majority are studying Iranian literature and culture and normally expect to remain for one academic year. For those who wish to continue their studies for an additional year the university will normally extend their scholarships.

The Iranian students at the university fall into three general groups: students from middle class families from the provinces; students from middle class families from Tehran; and students from poor families throughout the country. Generally young men and women of well-to-do or wealthy families do not attend the University of Tehran. They are sent abroad to France, Germany, England or the United States to obtain their degrees and return to enter the professions, family businesses or politics at whatever level they can. Students of middle class Tehran families, and even poor families, usually live at home and attend classes during the day. Some students work at various jobs while continuing their studies for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. As a result there are in many ministries, in Point 4, the Plan Organization and various embassies a large number of young men and women in various stages of academic progress. For example the liaison man from the American Embassy who meets all incoming planes is now writing his doctoral thesis in biology.

During the second semester of 1957 there were 9287 students in the University of Tehran. Of this number fewer than 800 students live in the university dormitories located on the northern outskirts of the city at Amir Abad, the site of the World War II U.S. Army Camp. The buildings of the former camp were purchased by the Shah, presented to the university, and still house about 500 students. At present there are three modern dormitory buildings housing approximately 100 students apiece, in small single or double rooms. These buildings are constructed of brick, are steam heated and well kept.

By/-

By American standards the old army barracks are extremely crude. There are only a few single rooms; three to five students usually occupy one room equipped only with essential furnishings and with one wash basin. The lighting is poor and the toilet and washing arrangements at a minimum. There is one shower with no hot water for every 55 students and one toilet for every 22. In winter one coal burner supplies the heat for each room.

To keep order and control among this group of young men dormitory leaders are appointed by the university housing officer. They are presumably selected on the basis of their political affiliations as much as upon their academic records and are intended to maintain a vigilant surveillance of all aspects of student life. Among them an unknown number of police are said to be assigned who assume their duties anonymously and in some cases are actually students themselves. These secret police are said to report at regular intervals to the chief of security of the university, Colonel Ansari, on the personal as well as the group activities of all students housed at Amir Abad. Although the selection of police is a closely guarded secret their presence is known and resented by the students who openly complain about the undemocratic procedures adopted by the university. The students assert that under such circumstances it is impossible to live a decent, normal life or to concentrate upon their studies. The university authorities on the other hand, contend that during past years they have been forced to use such methods in order to maintain order among the student body and to trap any riots in the budding stages. Under Dr. Eghbal some relaxation in the severity of these measures was gradually introduced but the secret police still remain, so far as can be ascertained. The government is mindful of the fact that the attempt to assassinate the Shah was made on the steps of the Law Faculty building seven years ago.

At present the only other university dormitory is located in another part of the city, in an old mosque in downtown Tehran, where 120 theological students are housed under what Americans would consider the most primitive conditions. With the exception of sparse electric lighting this building offers no facilities. It is run on the basis of the ancient ecclesiastic tradition of Islam with all washing done from a central pool in the court yard, no plumbing and each man occupying a small monastic cell in which there is a hard pallet and a prayer rug. His studying, consisting to a large extent of the mastery of parts of the Koran, is done wherever he can walk or contemplate between prayers, sermons and lectures.

As has been said, the University of Tehran charges no tuition. In addition there are grants, issued on the basis of need and scholarship, available to approximately one third of the student body. During the past academic year, 1956-57, 3452 students received grants, some of them small and some dimensional. Eighty per cent of the grants were between 300 - 600 rials ($4.00-8.00) a month; twelve per cent between 700 - 800 rials ($9.00 - 10.00) a month; five per cent between 900 - 1200 rials ($11.00 - 16.00) a month; and three per cent up to 1500 rials ($20.00) a month. The latter two categories enabled the recipient to eke out a sparse existence.

In August of 1956 at the express order of the Shah approximately 70 students

were/-

were granted scholarships for overseas graduate study. These students represented an accumulation over a three years' period of top honor students, each of whom by decree is supposed to be given a grant for one year of studying at a university abroad. Twenty six of these students, after taking courses in English, are studying in American universities; the rest are continuing their studies in England, Germany and France.

But students for the most part must depend upon their families or upon part-time jobs to keep them in the university. It is the small minority who can live comfortably while attending classes. During examination period the kuches, parks, mosques and public steps of university and other buildings are populated by perambulating students who read and memorize while they walk. The libraries are not accessible except at set hours where memorizing aloud is of course frowned upon.

There can be little doubt that to the generally inadequate living conditions of the students must be added the paucity of stimulating lectures and the unliberal policy of library management which combine to hold the level of study at an extremely low point. The University still relies on the French traditions of lectures, memory and general separation of the faculty from the students. There are competent and brilliant men on the faculty but they are few and they confine their main efforts to writing and research rather than to teaching. With rare exceptions the professors seem almost ashamed to show any personal interest in the problems of their students. A student must rise distinctly above routine accomplishment to gain the attention of a professor. This can and does occasionally happen in almost all faculties, but until it happens the student works alone with very little individual guidance or leadership.

The net result of these conditions of living, studying and teaching is to produce frustrated and disgruntled students who are dissatisfied not only with university conditions but with their chances of applying what they learn to future jobs. One student said: "We find our life in the university completely contrary to the ideals expressed in the lecture halls". Another student stated, " Our professor tells us that in the United States philosophy of education is based on the necessity of preparing the students for the responsibilities of life. If a professor can discuss this in theory why can he not apply it and why should we be trained as future slaves of our civil service and society?"

An unestimated proportion of the students sympathize with this sharp criticism of the system of education to which they are exposed. Their bitterness is accentuated when they realize that a majority of those graduating will have great difficulty in securing employment "because they do not belong to the favored social class." At present there is no counselling office for university students nor is there a student placement or employment office. As Dr. Hugh Baker, visiting professor of American literature at the university for the past year (1956-57) and advisor on student faculty relations, puts it:

"A number of the students in each faculty are in need of academic and psychological advice and guidance, and many of the students are in need of placement services by the university. Some of the students recognize these

needs/-

needs because such services have not been offered in the past by the secondary schools in the Middle East nor by the university. The whole concept of guidance is so new in Iran that an educational program must be presented to the administration and professors before it can become effective. I have spent much time this year in explaining the functions of a guidance program and the needs for it, and I have explained the need for a Dean of Students to bring together all aspects of a student-faculty program. The new Chancellor, Dr. Farhad, told me that he is greatly interested in such an idea and would like to appoint such a dean. We discussed the proper training for such an individual since at present no one in Iran seems prepared to do this work at once."

One must remember that here no academic advising in the matter of course selection is conventional, for in most of the faculties all of the students take the same courses during the same year, or all students in a certain specialty take the same courses. (The university does not follow the "elective system" of the United States, nor does it have "majors and minors", although advanced students in certain faculties may specialize in particular branches of their fields of learning.) However, certain changes are being made, and in at least one branch of the Faculty of Arts and Letters the unit system is being introduced, as a result of Dr. Suratgar's trip to the United States. But even then all students will take approximately the same courses, and at present they have little choice of which electives they may take. In the future academic advising for course selection may become necessary in other faculties if this system spreads. Also, it is important to notice that in certain instances students who fail examinations in June may repeat their examinations in September; otherwise, failure in one course means that the student must repeat the entire year's courses in all subjects (this is called being "refused"). Hence, students become especially nervous because of their fears that they will fail even one course.

The university has never felt that it is responsible for placing students in jobs. A few years ago when the university was smaller than it now is, such a responsibility was not necessary; then "connection" and "influence" were enough to get the graduates placed in jobs. But changing conditions will require the university to help its graduates (especially in the Faculties of Science, Technology, and Teacher Training) to get jobs. Also, the university will need to help some of its students find part-time jobs. I have presented this problem to the new Chancellor and have suggested ways of solving it under the supervision of a Dean of Students".

But equally important are two other aspects of the situation. The students must gradually be made to realize that the strong future careers in Iran, except for unusually talented people, no longer lie in the traditional professions such as medicine, law and literature. They must learn to develop the courage and the initiative to move into fields which can be applied to the development of their country such as soil conservation, agronomy, road building, contracting, public health and industrial engineering. Secondly, the Iranian student somehow must be made aware that he personally is responsible for his future and that he cannot continue to be a spoiled malcontent, too ready to whimper when someone else is not prepared to shoulder the problem of his future. Perhaps building some tough

independence/-

independence of spirit and enterprise is the most serious single need in the country today.

On the positive side, however, there are a number of recent developments which are encouraging and demonstrate evolution and progress. During the past year the university has taken advantage of the presence of Professors Hugh Baker, George H. Quinby, Frederick White and Quintus Wilson to firm up a Department of American Studies, to formalize courses in the drama and to lay the ground work for a School of Journalism which it is hoped will begin to operate during the next academic year, 1957-58. (See Embassy despatches Nos: 1111 of May 20, 1957; 43 of July 12, 1957 and 1192 of June 17, 1957.)

New university buildings in science, fine arts, and architecture are being completed on the main campus. They will be large, completely modern and well equipped. A handsome new gymnasium building has just been formally opened by the Shah. The Shah has frequently reiterated his interest in developing competitive university teams and with the recent arrival of the American athletic advisor, Dr. Jack Byrom, it is hoped athletics will take on new vitality and emphasis. The new Chancellor, Dr. Farhad, who has been in office for four months, has already taken action in a number of directions which indicate a statesmanlike grasp of university problems and a capacity for future planning on a large scale. With an eye on the Amir Abad property as the future site of the university Dr. Farhad has already added to it until it now totals about 100 acres. He also has his eye on the army stables and the race course which abuts on the property and he hopes to add this area in due course, even over the resisting bodies of the army high command. Farhad has had construction begun on three new dormitories, each of which will house 150 students in single rooms. Each dormitory will have a house library with a student librarian on duty a part of every day. These dormitories he plans to have opened in the next four or five months by the Shah and plans to pay for them by making each room the separate donation of an individual. The cost per room is now estimated at 10,000 rials ($131.00). Next year Farhad hopes to construct the first of the women's dormitories, a social club, a new cafeteria and restaurant and a cinema for students. He is well aware of the need to organize student activities and to develop an esprit de corps among them.

In discussing the future of the university with the CAO the Chancellor stated flatly that it is necessary for the university to have its status completely separated from the government. In this way only can the university develop along the lines which will enable it to charge tuition, to pay appropriate salaries and eventually to assemble a faculty which can command respect in the international academic world. Dr. Farhad said he is now drafting legislation which he is convinced he can get through the Majlis- presumably with the Shah's support- to give the university complete autonomy.

For the Ambassador

C. Robert Payne

C. Robert Payne
Counselor for Public Affairs

Enclosures:
1. Biographic Data
2. University Chart
3. Map of Tehran

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
AND
FACULTY DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY

1. Dr. Ahmad Farhad, Chancellor; b. 1902, Tehran. M.D. Heidelberg University, 1928. Four years' specialization in radiology after M.D. Was appointed Professor of Faculty of Medicine, Univ. Tehran, 1933. Travelled to U.S. studying and observing modern techniques in radiology 1947-48. Visited U.S. as leader grantee 1952. Publications: "Radiology in Modern Medicine", 1940, "Principles of Diagnosis through Radiology", 1945.

2. Mansoud Reyhan, Vice Chancellor, b. 1890, Tehran. Graduated French Military Academy, St. Cyr, 1913. Entered Imperial Army as 1st lieutenant, 1914. Minister of War, 1928. Conducted geographic survey of Iran 1930-35. Published three authoritative volumes on Iran's geography. Professor of Geography, Univ. Tehran, 1934. Minister of Education, 1947. Vice Chancellor, Univ. Tehran since 1949.

3. Dr. Mahmoud Etemadian, Secretary General, b. 1912, Tehran. M.D. and D.P.H. University of Paris, 1938. Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Univ. Tehran, 1940. Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Shiraz, 1953. Secretary General, Univ. Tehran since 1955.

4. Dr. Zabiollah Safa, University Liaison Officer, b. 1911, Tehran. Doctor of Persian Literature Univ. Tehran, 1942. National Secretary UNESCO since 1949; Present post since 1955.

5. Abolfazl Mar'ashi, University Information Officer, b. 1920, Tabriz. Government Department of Press and Propaganda, 1941-49. Assistant Information Officer, Univ. Tehran, 1950-53. Information Officer since 1953.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

1. Dr. Houssa Amid: b. Tabriz, 1910. AB and Doctor of Law, Univ, Paris, 1937. Professor of Law, Univ. Tehran, 1938 to present. Director Education, Tehran Province, 1944. Deputy to Majlis, 1953 to present. Dean, Faculty of Law, Univ. Tehran, 1952 to present. Publications: "History of Economic Thoughts", Univ. Press, 1948.

2. Dr. Khanbaba Bayani: b. Hamadan, 1907. AB, Univ. Tehran, 1928. Doctorate of History, University of Paris, 1935. Assistant Professor of History, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Univ. Tehran, 1936-41. Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts and Letter, 1941-45. Deputy Prime Minister, 1950-51. Chancellor, Univ. Tabriz, 1952-53. Director General, Univ. Tehran 1953-54. Senator, 1954 to present. Dean, National Teachers' College 1956 to present. Publications: "A History of Mongul Invasion", Univ. Press, 1941.

3. Dr. Manouchehri Eghbal: b. Meshed, 1908. Darul-fonun School Tehran, 1927. Montpelier University, 1930. M.D. Univ. Paris, 1934. Professor of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Univ. Tehran 1936. Minister of Health, Roads, Education, Post & Telegraph, etc. 1946-49. Minister without portfolio & Governor

General/-

General of Azerbaijan, 1952-53. Chancellor, Univ. Tehran, 1955. Minister of Court, 1956. Prime Minister, 1957. Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Univ. Tehran, 1955 to present. Publications: "New Findings and New Treatments of Some Infectious Diseases", Univ. Press, 1946.

4. Engineer Mohsen Foroughi: B. Tehran, 1911. B.S. Univ. Paris, 1932. License de Beaux Arts, Paris Polytechnique, 1935. Assistant Professor Fine Arts, Univ. Tehran 1935-40. Chief Architect, Bank Melli Iran, 1940-49. Chief Architect, Ministry of Finance 1945-50. Deputy to Majlis, 1953 to present. Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, 1947 to present.

5. Mr. Badiozaman Forouzanfar: b. Boshrouyeh, 1899. Studied Islamic theology and suphism in traditional religious schools, 1911-27. Professor of Persian Lit., Faculty of Law, 1928-30. Professor of Persian Lit., School of Arts and Letters, 1931-45. Senator 1948-51. Dean, Faculty of Theology 1951 to present. Publications: "History of Persian Literature", Univ. Press, 1950, "Understanding of Suphism", Ibn Sina Press, 1953.

6. Dr. Mohsen Hashtroudi: b. Tehran, 1911. AB Univ. Tehran, 1931. Docteur des Sciences, Univ. Paris, 1935. Assistant Professor of Higher Mathematics, Tehran Univ. 1936-41. Director of Education, Tehran Province, 1943-45. Professor of Higher Mathematics, Univ. Tehran, 1941 to present. Dean, Faculty of Sciences, 1957, Publications: "Les Espaces Normaux," 1943 ; "Les Connexions Normales", 1946; and "Sur les Espaces de Riemann", 1949.

7. Dr. Mohammad Hassan Mahdavi-Ardebili: b. Tabriz, 1905. B.S. Univ. Tehran, 1925. B.S. Univ. Lausanne, 1929. Assistant Professor Agriculture, Univ. Tehran, 1930-35. Professor Agriculture 1935 to present. Vice Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, 1947-53. Dean, 1954 to present. Publications: "Agricultural Statistics", Univ. Press, 1949; "Soil Analysis of Northern Iran", Univ. Press 1952.

8. Dr. Mehdi Mandar: b. Tehran, 1907. B.S. Univ. Tehran, 1928. Docteur de Science, Univ. Lyon, 1931. Docteur de Chimie, Univ. Paris, 1933. Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, Univ. Tehran, 1935-40. Professor of Pharmacy, 1940 to present. Chief Technician, Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Univ. Tehran 1943-49. Vice Dean, Faculty of Medicine 1949-53. Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, 1954 to present.

9. Dr. Reza Rastegar: b. Isfahan, 1905. AB Univ. Tehran, 1925. D.V.S. Univ. Toulouse, 1929. Assistant Professor, Veterinary Sciences Univ. Tehran, 1930-35. Head, Pasteur Institute 1935-37. Professor, Veterinary Sciences, Univ. Tehran, 1937 to present. Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, 1940-44. Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, 1945 to present.

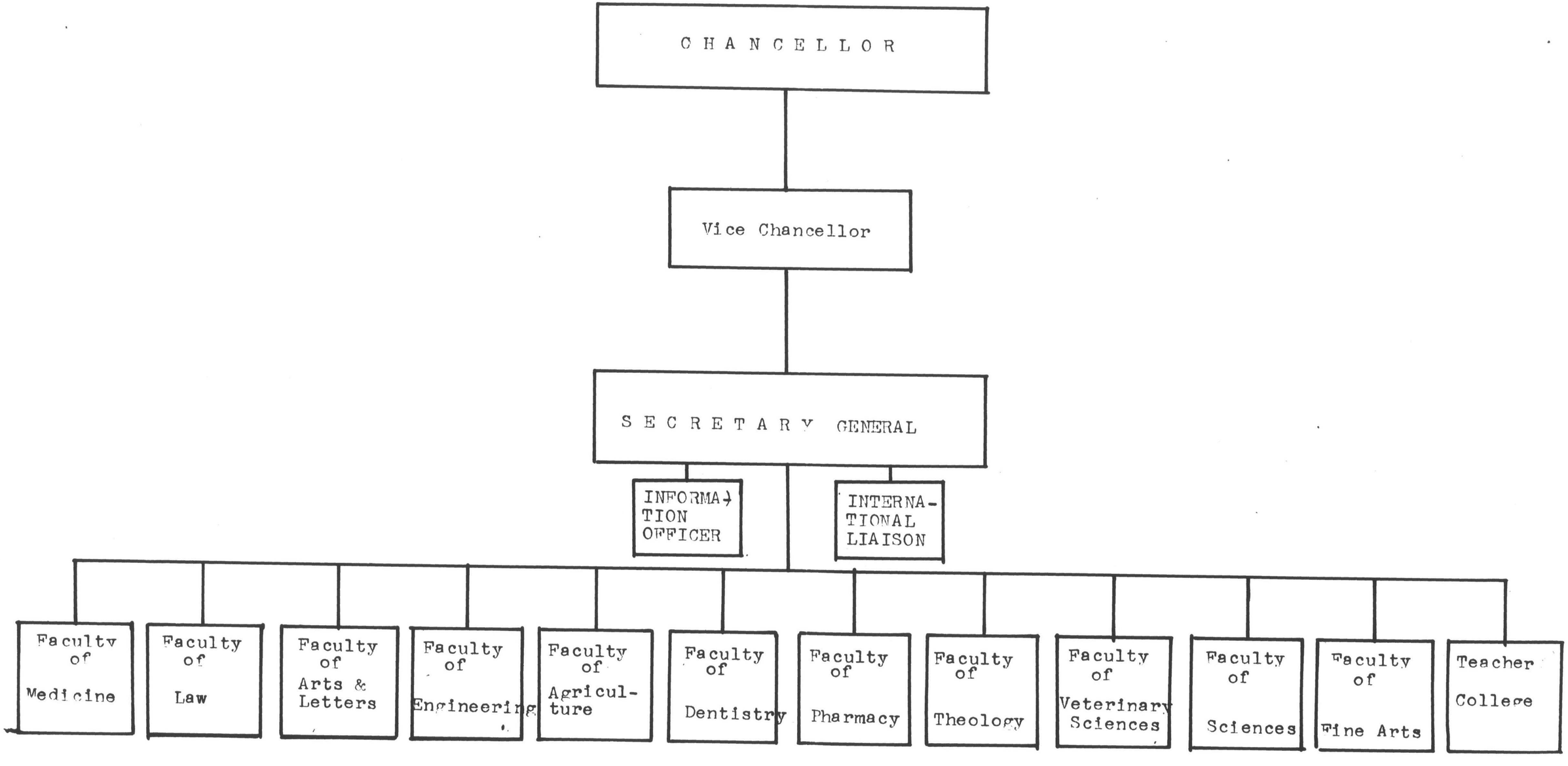
10. Engineer Abdollah Riazi: b. Isfahan, 1907. License et Ingenieur d'Electricite, Univ. Grenoble, 1934. Assistant Professor of Hydraulics and Electricity, Univ. Tehran, 1935-40. Professor of Irrigation and Electricity, 1940 to present. Vice Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Univ. Tehran, 1948-53. Dean, Faculty of Engineering, 1953 to present. Publications: "Electricity and its Uses", Univ. Press, 1948.

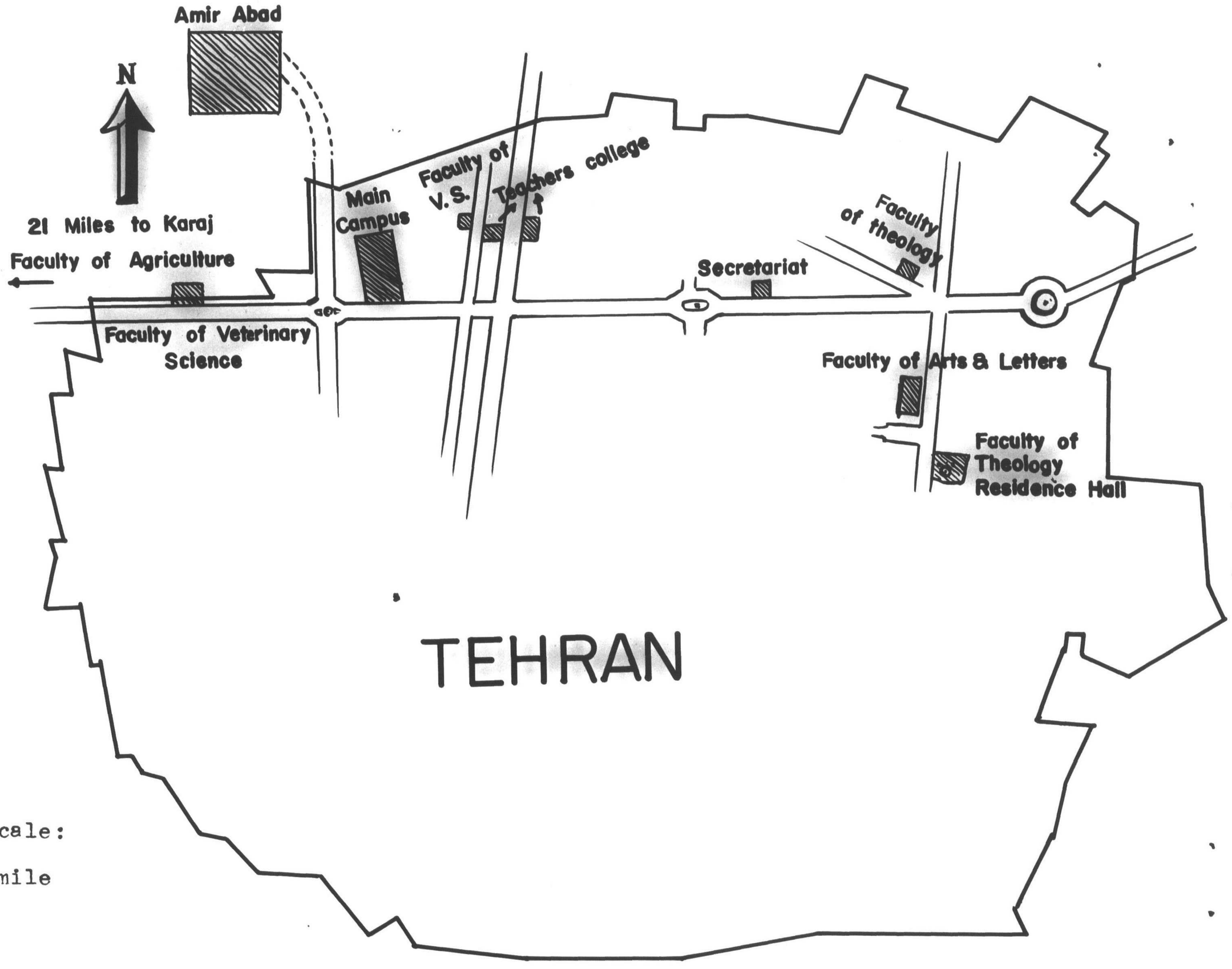
11. Dr. Mohsen Sayyah: b. Tehran 1904. B. S. Univ. Tehran, 1925. M.D. Univ.

Bordeaux/-

Bordeaux, 1934. Assistant Professor of Oral Diseases, Univ. Tehran, 1935-40. Professor of Oral Diseases, 1940-45. Vice Dean, Faculty of Medicine in charge of Division of Dentistry, 1945-53. Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, 1953 to present. Publications: "Principles of Orthodentistry", Univ. Press, 1945.

12. Dr. Ali-Akbar Siassi: b. Tehran, 1899. AB Univ. Tehran, 1920. D.Phil., Univ. Paris, 1931. Professor of French Lit. Univ. Tehran, 1934-38. Professor Psychology, Univ. Tehran, 1938 to present. Minister of Education 1943-44. Minister of Foreign Affairs 1948-49. Chancellor of Univ. Tehran, 1943-55. Dean, Faculty of Arts & Letters, 1943 to present. Publications: "Principles of General Psychology", Univ. Press, 1941.


CHANCELLOR
Vice Chancellor
SECRETARY GENERAL
INFORMATION OFFICER
INTERNATIONAL LIAISON
Faculty of Medicine
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Arts & Letters
Faculty of Engineering
Faculty of Agriculture
Faculty of Dentistry
Faculty of Pharmacy
Faculty of Theology
Faculty of Veterinary Sciences
Faculty of Sciences
Faculty of Fine Arts
Teacher College



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1 inch = 1 mile

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 3, 1958

SUBJECT: Need for Improved Educational Facilities in Iran

PARTICIPANTS: Senator Seyed Hassan Taqizadeh, member of the Iranian Senate
Deputy Under Secretary Loy W. Henderson
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

COPIES TO: ~~U (2) Ambassador Zahedi~~
~~NEA (2)~~
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In the course of a courtesy call upon Mr. Henderson, Senator Taqizadeh, now in the United States on a leader grant, referred to Iran's need for additional higher education facilities. He mentioned the Shah's interest in the establishment of an American-style university in Iran and referred to his own preference for the location of the proposed university in a small town south of the capital city. Mr. Henderson asked if he meant Yazd, Isfahan or Shiraz. Senator Taqizadeh replied that it would be preferable to see a new university established in a small town lacking the diversionary amusements available to the students at Tehran University.

Senator Taqizadeh stated that he realized that funds for the university would probably have to come from a private foundation but added that the blessing of the Department of State would be of great value. Mr. Henderson promised his assistance if the matter should come to his attention.

In response to a remark by Mr. Mouser, the Senator acknowledged the need for technical and vocational schools in Iran. He mentioned the possibility of the international oil consortium contributing to the establishment of an engineering college. Mr. Henderson said that it was his understanding that the Abadan Technical Institute had been organized by the consortium on a small but solid foundation and that gradual enlargement of this school might answer the country's requirement for a college of engineering.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS:

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[redacted]

Mr. Henderson

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

M-595

DATE: [illegible]

SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion of Iranian Institute of Technology

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Alva Hutchison, Educational Adviser to the International Oil Consortium
Mr. Herbert Hoover, Jr.
Deputy Under Secretary Loy W. Henderson
Mr. Grant S. Coulson, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, OFI

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American Embassy, Tehran
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APR 8 - 1958

Mr. Hutchison reviewed, for Mr. Hoover's benefit, his recommendations for the expansion of the Iranian Technical Institute into a national engineering college. Mr. Hutchison referred to a survey prepared by Lafayette College for the Consortium and the National Iran Oil Company. This survey recommended that the Institute be expanded into an engineering university and the survey had been accepted by both the Consortium and the NIOC. Mr. Henderson asked if there was documentary evidence that the Consortium had agreed to support the expansion. Mr. Hutchison replied that he thought acceptance had been oral.

Mr. Hoover asked if the proposed college would include a graduate school. Mr. Hutchison said that he thought the college should be confined to a two-year preparatory course and four years of undergraduate training in general engineering. The Institute, however, was presently training thirty Iranians in postgraduate courses of study, but this was essentially a retraining program. Mr. Hoover asked about the humanities, adding that he believed personally in a curriculum devoted at least half to the humanities. Mr. Hutchison commented that he agreed but that under present circumstances it was planned to devote approximately twenty percent of students' time to the humanities.

Dr. Hutchison then reported on his trip to London in February. He had seen Mr. Scholtens, the manager of Consortium operations in Iran, Mr. Thatcher of California Standard and Mr. Gregerson of Gulf. It had become clear to him that the participant directors in London were insulated from any knowledge of the proposed expansion by Mr. Scholtens. He did

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June 7, 1958

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE Embassy appraisal of F.Y. 1957 P.L. 402 U.S. Visiting Lecturer in Comparative Law Dr. Frederick C. Moreau of Kansas University.

Dean Moreau was assigned to the Faculty of Law of Tehran University P.L. 402 as United States Visiting Lecturer in Comparative Law for FY 1957. He was exceptionally successful in making herself appreciated in a School which has been only slightly accessible to American influences because of the French tradition in law studies in this country. In this regard Dean Moreau's ability to speak French was extremely useful.

In addition to his lectures at the University Dean Moreau also spoke at the Iran-America Society in Tehran and in the provincial centers.

Unfortunately the project for a U.S. Professor in Law for FY 58 had to be dropped because of the inability to recruit a replacement. At the same time Dean Moreau has been unable to consider a renewal in spite of his very great interest. He has however stated that he might be able to come back for a 5 or 6 month period next spring if a short-term grant can be arranged. The Law Faculty has indicated its desire to have him - mainly for the purpose of introducing an actual text book on American Law to the School. Before leaving Dean Moreau presented to the Faculty of Law library the books supplied by the Department of State and some books from his personal library.

For the Ambassador

Burrett Anderson
Counsellor for Public Affairs

GTI; GE. MOUSER
(29) M-640

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

888.432/6-1358

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: June 13, 1958

SUBJECT: The Abadan Technical Institute

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, Educational Adviser to the International Oil Consortium and Chancellor of the Abadan Technical Institute

Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

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Amembassy London
Amembassy Tehran
Amconsulate Khorramshahr

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JUN 17 1958

Dr. Hutchison reviewed the latest developments with respect to possible Consortium support for the expansion of the Abadan Technical Institute into a national engineering college. He said that Mr. Scholtens, the general manager in Iran, was still obdurate regarding Consortium support for this project and continued to reject his proposal to present plans for expansion to the participant directors in London. Dr. Hutchison added that he had heard from Mr. Thatcher, California Standard's representative in London, to the effect that the participant directors would consider the entire proposal at a future meeting.

The latest reports from Iran, according to Dr. Hutchison, indicated that the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) would take over the Institute because of Scholtens' insistence that only 30 students be admitted to the Institute in September, 1958 rather than the 100 desired by NIOC. While this step would not be fatal to the future of the Institute and the U.S. would receive some benefits because of American direction of the school, the Consortium would be confronted with a lost opportunity in the public relations field. This would be particularly unfortunate in view of other problems facing the Consortium in its relations with the Iranians, some of which might arise from the recent Standard of Indiana agreement with the NIOC.

Dr. Hutchison said that he had talked with the Iranian Ambassador, Dr. Ardalan, that morning and the Ambassador had said that he and General Abbas Farzanegan planned to discuss this fully with the Shah upon the latter's arrival on the West Coast. Dr. Hutchison agreed that there was nothing

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appropriate [illegible] U.S. Government [illegible] in this situation since it was essentially a matter between the Consortium and the Iranian Government. Mr. Hutchison concluded by stating that Mr. Scholtens had instructed him to remain in Aberdeen for two months, June and July, to discuss the latest policy decisions regarding the Institute. Since Mr. Scholtens would be in Europe during June and part of July, Mr. Hutchison could not understand this request and had written to Scholtens asking for clarification.

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AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, TEHRAN

1128
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 21, 1958
DATE

REF : P.L. 584 Proposal Objective 5 and FY 59 Objective 6 Joint Review Analysis CAO 59 Comments Project 5.

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
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	REC'D 7-4	INFO OTHER CIA-12 USIA-10 HEW-5 ARMY-4 NAVY 3

SUBJECT: Proposal and Plans for Establishment of Core of Middle-Eastern Studies in English Language at Tehran University.

This project was mentioned as an objective in the '58 and '59 proposals and is being further reported on in this communication to inform the Department as to developments to date.

Some months ago the CAO, after consultation with the Public Affairs Officer and Embassy Political Officer, discussed with the Chancellor of Tehran University the desirability and possibility of introducing a core of Middle-Eastern Studies, to be given in English, and intended to reach the Tehran English Speaking Community composed of American or other foreign nationalities as well as some selected Iranians. A special diploma was envisioned- courses being organized on a compulsory attendance and examination basis for those wishing credit. It was also thought that it might be possible, so far as Americans were concerned, to have such a diploma properly evaluated by the Office of Education.

In terms of regional influence and prestige it was pointed out to Iranian officials that perhaps such a course could be made to attract English speakers from neighboring Middle-Eastern Countries.

From the point of view of future planning for IES, the establishment of these studies would enable American students to figure in United States Educational Foundation program proposals in Middle-Eastern Studies for Iran. This has been virtually impossible to date because of the language barrier. The comment of the Joint Review Analysis for Academic Year 1959 Project 5, is here noted: "It is hoped that this project can later be enlarged to provide a research appointment for a senior American subject matter Specialist in Middle-Eastern Studies." This suggestion will be taken up as the program develops.

The idea as developed was accepted orally in its initial stages but had to be submitted to the University Senate for official discussion and approval. Enclosure (1) provides for the information of the Department the proposal as submitted by the CAO and enclosure (2) the formal approval with course of study planned by the University.

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REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

The next step, is that of advertising, and organization. At the present time, it is not possible to determine what the response will be. The University will undertake the basic publicity and USIS will cooperate in every way.

For the Ambassadore

Burnett Anderson

Burnett Anderson
Counsellor for Public Affairs

2 enclosures :

1. CAO's proposal to University
2. University's action on CAO's proposal

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

Memorandum Summarizing Discussions on Project for Establishment of Courses on Middle-Eastern and Iranian Culture for English Speaking Foreigners and a Few Selected Iranians. Sent to Faculty of Letters, Tehran University by CAO

1. The subject was broached originally with Chancellor Farhad and Dr. Etemadian and then discussed in detail with Dr. Siassi. The idea was to provide Americans and other English-speaking foreigners resident in Iran an opportunity to study Iranian and Middle-Eastern Cultural and political questions under the auspices of Tehran University and to give them an opportunity to obtain a knowledge of these fields. It would at once improve their understanding of this country and their ability to perform their tasks. Also, if successful, the course of study might be expanded so as to provide a means and incentive for foreigners residing outside of Iran to come here for these specialized courses. For example, it would provide a core of studies which could be followed in English by American students in the United States Exchange Programs. Other nationalities are also welcome and desirable, including English-speakers from Middle-Eastern countries.

However, the project must be initiated and tried on the basis of those English-speaking foreigners now present in Tehran. Announcement and proper advertising would be carried out by the University of Tehran.

A diploma from Tehran University should be offered. One for "auditors" and one for students who take an examination at the end of the course. For the latter, the course should be so organized that "credit" might be granted in home institutions.

Some Proposed Courses (Time: Beginning next October probably):

1. General Middle-Eastern Culture and Politics (History- Geography etc). Iran's position within this culture.

2. Introduction to Iranian Literature and Thought. Use will be made of selected passages in translation.

3. Iran To-Day: Political, Cultural, Economic, Social.

4. Farsi instruction to these wishing to perfect their knowledge. This course is intended for those already possessing basic knowledge.

Courses should be given at a convenient time, about two hours once a week. This can be varied according to demand.

over/

Fees. No decision yet reached but a reasonable fee should be charged;

Further action: Dr. Siassi wished to discuss the matter in greater detail with the University Council. Decisions for the announcement of courses will then be made by the University of Tehran.

The best method of publicity will be discussed later.

University of Tehran, Faculty of Arts and Letters
Courses in Middle-Eastern and Iranian Civilization & Culture
Project for fall 1958

Article 1- A special course will begin in the Faculty of Arts and Letters to introduce the civilization and culture of Iran and the Middle-East to qualified foreigners.

Article 2- The course is for one year, 2 hours a week from 5:00 P.M.

Article 3- All the courses of study will be taught in English.

Article 4- Two types of applicants can attend the courses: those who would like to take the examinations at the end of the course and receive a certificate, and those who will only attend the course as auditors. The tuition for an academic year will be 3,000 Rls for the first group and 2,000 Rls. for the second group.

Article 5- The lectures will be delivered by University Professors, but- when needed- scholars not teaching at the University may also give lectures with the approval of the Faculty Council.

Article 6- The courses of study which will be taught are the following:

1. Short geography and history of the Middle-East.
2. Short geography and history of Iran, describing the particulars of Iranian civilization and culture among the other Middle-Eastern countries.

3. Farsi language and literature and Iranian views and opinions. (with the use of extracts from Persian literature translated into English).

4. Educational, economic, social and political aspects of Iran of today.

5. Farsi language for the applicants who have had preliminary studies in the language and wish to complete their knowledge.

Article 6- Applicants who pass the examinations will receive certificates signed by the professors, the director in charge of the course and Dean of the Faculty. Applicants who only attend the lectures (auditors) and those who fail in the examinations, can also receive a certificate signed by the director in charge of the course, indicating that they have attended the whole course or certain lectures only.

Article 7- Other regulations for the course will be effective after approval by the Council of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

239

UNCLASSIFIED

(Security Classification)

FOR DC USE ONLY

NO.: A - 26, August 4, 1958

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE: Middle Eastern Studies at Tehran University.

TO: The American Embassy, TEHRAN.

Reference is made to the Embassy's Despatch No. 1120 of June 21, 1958.

The Department appreciates the Embassy's progress report on the establishment of a core of Middle Eastern studies in the English language at Tehran University. Additional information will be welcome as the project develops.

The Foreign Service Institute has expressed an interest in this proposal, pointing out that it would probably come within the FSI University Extension Program, which permits the Institute to defray expenses for approved courses taken at various universities overseas by American Foreign Service personnel in order to increase their usefulness to the Service.

HERTER (ACTING)

RM/R
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S/S-CR
AUG 4 1958

UNCLASSIFIED

(Security Classification)

DRAFTED BY: RMHerrod
F:IES:EMHughes:djb 7/25/58

APPROVED BY:
F:IES: Ivan Helson

CLEARANCES:
IES - ERLinch
GAnderson
O/TSI - FECash

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888.432/7-958

GTI: G.E. MOUSER

(22)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 9, 1958

SUBJECT: An American University in Shiraz

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Mehra, Shiraz Medical Center
Deputy Under Secretary Loy W. Henderson
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

COPIES TO: O-(cc-1); NEA-(cc-2); GTI-(cc-2); S/S-2; INR-2; W-1; W/MSC; ICA-1, Amembassy Tehran.

JUL 1 1958

This Document must be Returned to the RM/R Central Files

Dr. Mehra referred to the Shah's long-standing desire for an American university in Iran, most recently enunciated during the Shah's visit to Washington. He understood that the Vice President had agreed with the Shah that this was a worthy project and the Vice President had added that ICA might be able to help.

Dr. Mehra said that he discussed with both the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations a complete renovation of Shiraz University along American lines. In addition, a representative of the former had discussed this with the Shah in Washington. Rockefeller was now committed to send a survey team to Shiraz to make a study of the needs. Ford might help at a later date. Dr. Mehra said that he appreciated the Department's moral support in this and that he hoped some technical assistance might be provided the reorganized university in the future. He knew that the Shah was delighted with this prospect.

Mr. Henderson expressed his gratification at this news and added the hope that the survey would be completed expeditiously. He said that he was glad to hear that Dr. Mehra had discussed this with Ambassador Wailes, our new Ambassador to Iran. Dr. Mehra would find Mr. Wailes a sympathetic and understanding representative of the United States in his country.

NEA:GTI:GEMouser:eaw:7/10/58

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GPO 912677

CONFIDENTIAL

GTI: G.E. MOUSER
(22) M-650

888.432/8-2258
XR 788.00

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

(By Telephone)

DATE: August 22, 1958

SUBJECT: (1) Rockefeller Foundation in Iran;
(2) Newspaper Reports of Unrest in Iran.

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ali Gholi Ardalan, Iranian Ambassador,
Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

COPIES TO: S/S-2, INR-2, NEA-2, GTI-2, P, NEA/P, AmEmbassy Tehran

AUG 25 1958

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(1) Rockefeller Foundation in Iran. Mr. Mouser told Ambassador Ardalan that the Department had checked with the Rockefeller Foundation with regard to its work in Iran. The Executive Vice President of the Foundation stated that while it was true that a survey team was going to Shiraz in connection with the university there, its work would be confined to the medical faculty. In addition, he had informed the Department that President Dean Rusk of the Foundation would stop in Iran in October.

Ambassador Ardalan thanked Mr. Mouser for this information and commented that the Rusk trip would offer an opportunity for an exchange of views in Tehran. Dr. Ardalan said that he had sent a letter to the Vice President regarding an American University in Iran, and had forwarded a copy to Minister of Court Ala. No reply had been received.

(2) Newspaper Reports of Unrest in Iran. Ambassador Ardalan asked if the Department had decided what it would do with respect to the recent articles in the New York Times referring to unrest in Iran. While he appreciated the Department's suggestion that the Secretary make an allusion to conditions in Iran in a press conference, he had reservations if Iran were to be singled out for attention on this score. He wondered if it would not be better for the Secretary to mention Iran perhaps in the framework of comments on the UN Resolution on the Middle East. For example, he could mention all of the Baghdad Pact member countries, with a special phrase for Iran. Mr. Mouser said that he would raise this suggestion in the Department.

FILED
AUG 26 1958

NEA:GTI:GEMouser/js

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888.432/8-2558

GTI: G.E. MOUSER
(22)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: August 25, 1958

SUBJECT: Consortium Support for the Abadan Technical Institute

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Willie Morris, First Secretary, British Embassy;
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

COPIES TO: O, S/S-2, INR-2, NEA, ~~GTI-2, E,~~ FSD, AmEmbassies London and Tehran

AUG 27 1958

Mr. Morris said that Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison had contacted the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs regarding Consortium support for the Abadan Technical Institute. The Ministry had then queried the British Embassy in Tehran on this subject, and that Embassy had commented that while there was much to be said on both sides of this issue, it would be best for the British Government not to become involved. Mr. Morris added that the Foreign Office believed that British Petroleum would be opposed because that company was of the opinion that the AIOC had made a major mistake in undertaking ventures not strictly related to oil operations. Mr. Morris asked if the Department had any information on this subject.

Mr. Mouser said that Dr. Hutchison had approached Deputy Under Secretary Henderson a number of times. Mr. Henderson had mentioned these approaches to a U.S. member company, but the Department believed it should not go beyond this in expressing interest. Dr. Hutchison argued in his talks at the Department that the Consortium was already under heavy criticism for not expanding the Institute, and that the Consortium would miss an excellent opportunity to demonstrate its good will if it did not in fact assist the Institute. The General Manager of operations in Iran, Mr. Scholten, apparently was against the entire idea, and had so far prevented any discussion of Dr. Hutchison's ideas before the participant directors in London.

Mr. Morris promised to inform the Department of any reactions his government might have.

NEA:GTI:GEMouser/js

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NEA:GTI:GEMouser:ges
(Drafting Office and Officer)
(39) M-787

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

XR 888.2553

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 23, 1958

SUBJECT: The Establishment of an Engineering College in Iran

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, Educational Adviser to the Consortium and Chancellor of the Abadan Technical Institute.
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI.

COPIES TO:

S/S-2	GTI-2	
INR-2	ICA	
O	USIA	
W	AmEmbassy, London	
E	AmEmbassy, Tehran	
NEA	AmConsulate, Khorramshahr	

18

OCT 23 1958

Dr. Hutchison said that he just returned from a trip to Iran and to London where he had investigated further the possibilities of establishing an engineering college in Iran. In London he had determined that the participant director for Standard Oil of California, John Thacher, had introduced, presumably with the backing of the other American members of the Consortium, a proposal that the Consortium contribute financially to the founding of an engineering college in Iran located anywhere but Abadan. Dr. Hutchison added that no vote had been taken.

In Iran he had found as expected a somewhat hostile Scholtens (the General Manager of Consortium operations in Iran) who accused him of exceeding his authority in discussing a proposed expansion of the Abadan Technical Institute with the American parent companies and the Department of State. According to Dr. Hutchison, Mr. Scholtens told him to cease and desist from any further approaches. Mr. Mouser asked why Mr. Scholtens took this position. Dr. Hutchison replied that he gave four ostensible reasons for his opposition: a firm conviction that the Technical Institute should be operated only to further Consortium operations; a desire to avoid furnishing trained engineers for competitors, e.g. Standard of Indiana; a belief that the Consortium did not require a large number of trained Iranian engineers and; that an entering class at the Institute should number no more than 30. On this last point, Mr. Scholtens had agreed reluctantly that 15 additional students could be trained as draftsmen and, next year, 15 more as engineering accountants.

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1 cc retained for evac. files

Dr. Hutchison stated that Mr. Scholtens' real reasons for opposition to expansion probably stemmed from the following factors: that any larger enrollment would mean an increase in capital expenditures by the participating companies; that Mr. Scholtens had agreed reluctantly to continue an educational program begun by his predecessor; that he had done so without obtaining the concurrence of his superiors in London and; that he believed that Tehran University opposition constituted a serious deterrent. On this last point, Dr. Hutchison commented that the University was not opposed for academic reasons, but only because it now received financial help from the Consortium which it feared might be lost. Curiously enough, although the participant directors in London had not considered the Thacher proposal, Mr. Scholtens had already told the NIOC that the Consortium would contribute financially to an engineering college located other than at Abadan.

Mr. Mouser asked if reports were true, that the NIOC would take over the management of the Abadan Institute. Dr. Hutchison replied that this step was now rumored for the Spring of 1959. There were two alternatives for the NIOC; it could operate the Institute as a non-basic under the Consortium Agreement by which the Consortium would continue financial support and guide the Institute as to policy, or the Institute could be moved and operated by the NIOC as a non-non-basic. In the latter case, the NIOC would have to provide most of the funds, but in turn would have policy control. The Consortium would make a financial contribution and take some of the graduates for oil operations. Mr. Scholtens would prefer this latter course since his basic attitude involves a desire to be rid of the Institute one way or another. A basic disagreement immediately arose since the NIOC insists that the Institute be located at Abadan in any event.

Dr. Hutchison said that he had been asked by Mr. Thacher to draw up plans for an engineering college to be located in Khuzistan. He personally believed that Ahwaz would be the best locale since it served as provincial capital and as headquarters for the Khuzistan Development Authority and Standard of Indiana. Dr. Hutchison added that Shiraz was not as good because its attractive location and climate would act as deterrents to service in Khuzistan where the engineering graduates would be needed primarily. Mr. Mouser mentioned the Shah's great interest in an American-style university, located perhaps in Shiraz. We had informed the Shah that we might be able to help an existing institution but that we did not have a capacity to create a university. Dr. Hutchison expressed familiarity with this development and acknowledged that Shiraz might also serve as the location of the engineering college, perhaps in conjunction with the proposed university. He doubted that the present Shiraz University offered much for the future.

Dr. Hutchison concluded on a note of optimism, while recognizing the difficulties. He promised to inform the Department of new developments.

NEA:GTI:GEMouser:ges
(Drafting Office and Officer)

(22) M-617

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 7, 1958

SUBJECT: American University in Iran; Recent Soviet Protest; Events in Iraq and the Kurdish Problem; The Asswan Dam; The DLF Loan to Iran

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ali Gholi Ardalan, Ambassador of Iran
Mr. Owen T. Jones, Director, GTI
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

COPIES TO:

(24)

S/S - 2	GTI - 2 (cc)	AmEmbassy Baghdad
INR - 2	NE	AmEmbassy Cairo
E	NR	AmEmbassy Moscow
W	EUR	AmEmbassy Tehran
G	EE	AmConsulate Kirkuk
C	ICA	AmConsulate Tabriz
NEA	DLF	

American University in Iran.

Dr. Ardalan said that he had received a reply to his letter to the Vice President seeking assistance for an American University in Iran. He was now pondering the next step to take with his Government. Mr. Mouser commented that he, speaking personally, believed that if Iran were to use an existing institution or, alternatively, to create a new institution as a foundation for an American-style college, there might be something that the U. S. Government, private foundations and others could do to assist. Certainly, an engineering faculty or college would be an important component part. Dr. Ardalan agreed with the observations and said that he would make a recommendation to the Minister of Court, Mr. Ala. Dr. Ardalan observed further that a first-rate engineering college would probably attract students from all over the Middle East.

Recent Soviet Protest

The Ambassador asked what the Department thought about the recent Soviet note protesting the alleged conclusion of a military pact between Iran and the United States. Mr. Jones reviewed the background to the present negotiations between Iran and the United States on a possible bilateral agreement in implementation of the London Declaration. Mr. Jones also referred to the Joint Resolution on the Middle East, and the Ambassador immediately commented that he had told the Shah that the resolution constituted everything that Iran could hope for in the way of a security guarantee from the United States. Dr. Ardalan said that while his country had become accustomed to Soviet bluster, it nevertheless was still strange that the Soviets would resort to a protest on such

2 cc's rec'd RM/R

flimsy grounds in the framework of the campaign to convince Iran of Soviet friendship. Mr. Mouser commented that Iran could probably survive the loss of Mr. Voroshilov as a state visitor, and Ambassador Ardalan smiled.

Events in Iraq and the Kurdish Problem

Dr. Ardalan said that he was very much concerned over recent trends in Iraq and was at a loss to understand the Iraqi Government's motivations. There were so many conflicting forces that it was difficult to discern who was on whose side. Mr. Mouser referred to the recent jailing of Colonel Aref and the apparent clash between his followers and those supporting President Qassim, allied with the Communists. Mr. Jones asked what effect Barzani's return would have upon Kurds living outside Iraq. The Ambassador replied that in his opinion Barzani would have little appeal for Turkish and Iranian Kurds but might wield considerable influence among Iraqi and Syrian Kurds. Mr. Mouser asked if the new Iraqi government was not in fact endangering its own existence by appealing to Kurdish nationalism. Ambassador Ardalan agreed and added that the Iraqi government might soon have second thoughts about further encouragement of the Kurds. He said that President Nasser of the UAR was apparently becoming concerned. The Ambassador observed that Iranian and Turkish Kurds could probably exercise considerably more influence upon Iraqi Kurds than the latter could upon the former. He added hastily that he was not recommending this as a policy for his government.

The Aswan Dam

Dr. Ardalan said that the Soviets and Nasser had apparently won a propaganda victory, at least, with the announcement of Soviet aid for the Aswan Dam. He asked if the United States had any intention of contributing to the construction, and said that he hoped not. Mr. Jones replied that he had no knowledge of any such intention at this time.

The DLF Loan to Iran

Mr. Jones referred to our hope that Mr. Obst and Mrs. Shorter of the DLF would help resolve present difficulties, during their forthcoming visit to Iran. They were going to Iran not to place obstacles in the path of the Plan Organization but solely to help clear the way for the promised DLF assistance to Iran. They, of course, had to rely upon the criteria laid down by Congress and the DLF Committee. Mr. Brenn's visit to Washington had been very helpful to everyone concerned with this matter. He would return to Iran before the arrival of the DLF team. Dr. Ardalan expressed gratification at this development. Mr. Mouser observed that if Mr. Ebtehaj and others in the Plan Organization realize that Mr. Obst and Mrs. Shorter were going to Iran to help in every way possible, the negotiating path might prove considerably smoother. Dr. Ardalan agreed and suggested that this matter be discussed further at a dinner party to be given by Mr. Nemazee in honor of Mr. Brenn on November 10, 1958.

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
888.432/11-2058
XR 511.883

FROM : AMBASSADOR, TEHRAN

369
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 20, 1958
DATE

REF : Ambassy's Despatch No: 1128 of June 21, 1958 and Department of State Instruction No: A- 26 of August 4, 1958

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
17	IES-5	RMR-2 NEA 4 IRC-8 O/FSI-3 P-5
	REC'D 11-28	INFO OTHER Cu 12 USIA-10

SUBJECT: Establishment in Tehran University of English Language Courses in Persian and Middle Eastern Culture. Progress Report

This communication is a follow-up on those referenced and is intended to give the present status of this project as requested by the Department.

The establishment of a core of Middle Eastern Studies in English at Tehran University was proposed by the Cultural Officer to the authorities of Tehran University last spring. After study the University Council accepted the idea and planned to open the courses this fall. The following general considerations were involved:

1. The language barrier has hitherto made courses on Persian and Middle Eastern Culture at Tehran University unattainable to most foreigners.

2. English is an international vehicle of communication.

3. Iran is interested in having the background of its culture understood by other countries. This is true basically and particularly in the light of the increasing importance of Iran in international affairs.

4. The English-speaking colony of Tehran, and in particular, members of the American community could benefit by a solid orientation course in this field.

5. The U.S. Educational Exchange Program in Iran has been limited-as far as the presence of American students in Iran is concerned- by the language barrier. Area courses in English would alleviate this situation.

6. In reference communication (Department's Instruction No: A- 26 of August 4, 1958) it is stated that the Foreign Service Institute might be interested in utilizing these courses for its University Extension Program.

Ack

MAckerman/pa
REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

With the assistance of the U.S. Information Service a course of study was worked out which would incorporate the experience and practice of American institutions. Examinations, compulsory attendance and diplomas for successful students are intended. As now constituted completion of 8 credits (four courses) out of a possible 10 entitles the student to a diploma.

The Faculty consists of:

1. Dr. Lotfali Suratgar, Professor of English and Persian Languages and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Letters since 1939.
   Iranian Poet and Scholar.
   Educated in Shiraz School of Theology.
   B.A. from University College, London, 1933.
   P.H.D. from University College, London, 1939.
   1956-57 P.L. 402 exchange professor at Harvard University.

2. Prof. Rezazadeh Shafagh, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Tehran and Head of the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts and Letters since 1930.
   Primary and Secondary education in Iran.
   B.S. Robert College 1918 (Turkey).
   P.H.D. University of Berlin 1928.
   Special studies in Islamics 1928.
   Visiting Professor of the Iranian Culture at the Columbia, Michigan and McGill Universities.

3. Dr. Hafez Farman Farmaian, Associate Prof. of History at the Faculty of Arts and Letters and Institute for Administrative Affairs, Faculty of Law.
   High School Tehran.
   B.A. Stanford University 1946.
   M.A. Stanford University 1949.
   P.H.D. George Town University 1953.
   D.P.A. University of Southern California 1955.

4. Dr. E. Negahban, Prof. of History and Archeology at the Faculty of Arts and Letters since 1956.
   Licence Degree from Faculty of Arts and Letters, Tehran University 1947.
   P.H.D. in Archeology from Chicago University 1955.

Course titles are as follows:

Fall Semister:

1. History and Civilization of Persia.
2. Political, Economic and Social Institutions of Persia.
3. History and Culture of the Middle East.
4. Advanced Persian Language.

over/

Spring Semister:

1. The Literary History of Persia.
2. Persian Culture and its Contributions.
3. Advanced Persian Language.

Registration between November 8 and November 15 has netted some 175 students who are now beginning their work.

Although the majority of students are American, other nationalities are represented, including: British, Scandinavian, German, Chinese, Danish, French [redacted] etc.

U.S. Information Service personnel and facilities were especially helpful in launching this project. Brochures and registration blanks were designed and printed for the University and U.S. Information Service local personnel assisted in the actual registration process. It should be understood, however, that the courses were organized and advertised under full Tehran University sponsorship.

The University will offer a reception of welcome to this first class within the next two weeks.

It would be desirable to take advantage of this initial enthusiasm in order to establish a permanent program. The University of Tehran has indicated its desire for further cooperation and it is requested that the Department indicate the extent of its interest, particularly as regards the Foreign Service Institute and the feasibility of future planning for U.S. Students to Iran under the Exchange Program.

For the Ambassador

Burnett Anderson
Counsellor for Public Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Brochures
2. Registration Blanks
3. Photos
4. Etra set enclosures for USIA/IAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

UNCLASSIFIED 506
(Security Classification)

FOR DC USE ONLY

NO.: A-117 January 9, 1959

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE: Courses Given in English in Tehran University.

TO: American Embassy, TEHRAN

Reference is made to the Embassy's despatch No. 369 of November 20, 1958. The Embassy is commended for its initiative and subsequent activity in establishing a core of Middle Eastern studies in English at Tehran University. The Department hopes that these courses will make possible a far better understanding and appreciation in the United States of the language, culture, history, etc., of Iran and the Middle East.

For the information concerning the Foreign Service Institute's University Extension Program, please see 1 FSM I 531.3. The Department has also invited to the reference despatch the attention of the Training Division of USIA.

The Department will be greatly interested in including some American student grants in the educational exchange program with Iran. Their inclusion will depend upon the program of the United States Commission for Cultural Exchange with Iran, and upon the degree of priority given to such exchanges by the Embassy.

DULLES

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JAN 9 1959 P.M.

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O/FSI - 3 copies
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DRAFTED BY: P:IES:RMHughes 1/6/59
APPROVED BY: P:IES:Ivan Nelson

CLEARANCES:
IES GAMann EHawkins NEA/P Mr. Stora O/FSI - Mr. Cash (in substance)

ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON — From
319 ALPHA BUILDING
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER
IRANIAN OIL OPERATING COMPANIES
P. O. Box 1065
KUCHEH YAGHMA
TEHERAN, IRAN

CHANCELLOR
ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ABADAN, IRAN

February 13, 1959

Dear Secretary Hart:

I did not intend to burden you with the Iranian situation but I am guided to do so from word from Mr. Henderson. Of course it ties in with the proposals of our memorandum of January eleventh, and if referred to in that memorandum under Iran. It therefore seems to me that I should document this situation, which I have done in the attached memorandum.

At just this point in Iran, even more than in Jordan, the matter is critical, urgent, and I believe will do more than ten times as much money through government channels for other purposes.

I hope that we may have another conference on these subjects soon, and I am ready to come any time.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph Cooper Hutchison

The Honorable Parker T. Hart
Deputy-Under-Secretary of State
for Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs
New State Department Building
Virginia Avenue
Washington, D.C.

RCH:cgc

Enclosure

2

ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON
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EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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CHANCELLOR
ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ABADAN, IRAN

To The Honorable Parker T. Hart
Deputy Under-Secretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs
Department of State

Memorandum on IRAN and an AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Preface

Mr. Henderson with whom we have heretofore consulted on this development advises that this should now be referred to Mr. Roundtree. Inasmuch as you are considering our previous memorandum suggesting a new program in the Middle East, we ask that you consider this summary regarding Iran along with the other.

I. Iranian Desire for an American University

As Mr. Henderson and Mr. Mauser will confirm there has now for many years been a very strong desire that the American people (not the government, I think) should establish in Iran a distinctive university, characterized by American leadership, and American standards of higher education. This has been expressed by the Shah, by Hosein Ala when he was Prime Minister, many other members of this and former governments and by the educated class generally. The movement for such now is being spear-headed by Doctor Alam, member of the parliament and leader of the "opposition" party. A splinter section of this movement interested in the establishment of such a university in Shiraz is led by Doctor Mehra, Director of the Nemazee Hospital and Doctor Ghorban, Director of the Medical School in Shiraz (both former students of ours in Alborz).

This insistent desire is, in our judgement, motivated by the following factors:

1. The extraordinary influence in Iran of the graduates of the former Alborz College, and their relative integrity and distinctive public service.

2. The achievements of the American University of Beirut.

3. Profound confidence in America which, in my judgement, remains intact despite recent expressions otherwise.

4. Great concern lest Iran be compelled to accept overtures of the Soviets to establish a technical university. Such offer was made last May and is probably contained in the offer of assistance now being proposed by the Soviets to the Iranian government. Some Iranian leaders feel that they cannot hold out against such offers indefinitely unless they can point to a developing American technical university meeting their needs.

II. Abadan Institute of Technology as a Possible Solution

In 1958 I assured Mr. Henderson, Mr. Mauser, and the then American Ambassador that the Abadan Institute of Technology as originally recommended in the Survey, and as established by the Consortium had every possibility of meeting this desire by the people and members of the government. It was not planned as large or elaborately as is AUB to which the Shah made references, and was to be a technical college rather than arts. Nevertheless it was to have had an Iranian-American Board, was to have had American professors at the head of all departments for the first decade, was to be of the highest engineering academic standards. Under these plans we believed that there would develop a distinctive technical college which would meet this overwhelming need of Iran.

Since that time, however, the General Managing Director of the Consortium has reversed his position and now requires that the Institute shall be limited in its services to developing only those engineers needed by the Consortium or by the Agreement Area, and defining this need to be those graduating six years after entering in a class limited to thirty. Original plans for a Board, for academic incorporation in both Iran and the United States, for support from America, Iran and Europe, for the development to a self-sustaining independent basis -- all such plans have been stopped. Meanwhile the operational development within the above limitations has been extraordinary and has been encouraged by this same General Managing Director. An outstanding faculty of American Educators and engineering professors has been appointed, the nucleus of a fine Iranian faculty installed, almost a million dollars worth of scientific equipment, repairs, alterations and developments authorized for this year, and three classes of able students are enrolled, the students being chosen from all parts of Iran.

The present plans of the Institute do not meet the Iranian need but paradoxically the academic foundations are laid for the great college which the Iranians want. In fact in President Groves, Dean Hunt, Professor Crosen and others now on that faculty there is, I believe, the only foundation on which a distinctive college of highest American standards can in the immediate future be established in Iran.

The National Iranian Oil Company is on the point of taking over the Abadan Institute of Technology. If they take it over as "non-basic" they will still be unable to return the development to the original plans -- unless there should come a change in the policy of the Consortium. If they take it over as "non non-basic" as has been proposed by the Consortium, they will be free to revert to the original plans and a college or university can be developed which comes reasonably near to the desires of the Iranians.

These decisions are now in debate and negotiation but possibilities of the larger "nationally servicable" college are faltering. But just at this time an offer of substantial grants from some American "non-governmental" source would swing the balance.

III. The University Movement apart from Abadan Institute of Technology

The Shah had earnest conversations with Vice-President Nixon on this subject during his recent visit to America. Doctor Alam, and Doctor Mehra have approached the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. The latter foundation has sent or has promised to send a commission to study the matter, presumably of such a university in Shiraz.

The chances of foundation aid in the establishment are very remote. Foundations which might aid such a university after its successful establishment hesitate to aid in the establishment stages because of the implied commitment to support in perpetuity that which they started.

The plan for combination of three government institutions now in Shiraz into an American University is impossible because of the vested interests of the government and of the officers and faculties of those institutions. A college or university of American standards can be built only from the ground up because of the deficiencies of secondary education in Iran. There must be re-education in mathematics, science and english on the secondary level (as we are doing at Abadan), then high standard college education in arts and sciences before American standard university and medical work can even be attempted.

In summary this movement led by Doctor Alam and the Minister of Court is also "faltering".

IV. Solution Suggested

Any solution suggested should be something which would quickly bring all this confused situation into united action. Obviously it should be something which would encourage NIOC to decide on the "non-basic" plan, accept the Consortium offer of funds for that plan, and inspire both NIOC and the Consortium

to revert to the original plan, establish an independent Iranian-American Board, secure the incorporation in both Iran and America, and draw the Shah's interest and attention to the possibilities of a technical college in Khoosistan.

Money is not the problem because of the resources available and possible from the Consortium, from the large educational allotment of NIOC, because of the willingness of other concessionares to support this, and because of the industrial and foundation support possible from America when the College has broken loose from strict company ownership. But the Consortium, NIOC, the Shah, Doctor Alam, the Minister of Court all think that money is the problem. The debate and delay between the Consortium and NIOC is about who shall pay what and how much.

The best chance of solving this is that a foundation in America, probably one created for the purpose, should make an offer not dissimilar to that being made by the Soviets -- offer if the original plan of an independent college is restored, a Board set up that this foundation will provide the funds for six or ten years for the salaries and all expenses of the American faculty, provide the scientific equipment from America, the library, and support of the American office of the Institute. This would keep the control of a substantial grant in our hands and prevent any dissipation, would give security to the American faculty and officers and insure the continuance of American and western influence in this anti-Soviet bastion. At the same time the offer stated in gross figures would be impressive and serve to weld together all those concerned for the establishment of an American college. It might be five million dollars over six years. I have not figured this out.

V. Proposal

That in behalf of this situation in Iran, and including perhaps the Jordan and Near East situation, a non-governmental foundation be established for the promotion of Higher Education in the Middle East, that this foundation offer to Iran so many million dollars for the American costs in establishing Abadan Institute of Technology if established on the original plan of the Consortium and as recommended in the Survey.

VI. Urgency

The political situation in Iran, the urgent offerings of the Soviets, the long desire for this American college, the critical and decisive stage of the Abadan development, the beginning stages of other developments such as Indiana Standard, the Khoosistan development corporation and others who will want to help now -- all these make this critically important and urgent.

Ralph Cooper Hutchison

B

NEA:GTI:GEMouser:ges

(37) M-787

File 13 A-Education
Ref 6 A1 Consortium
888.432/10-2358

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

XR 888.2553

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 23, 1958

SUBJECT: The Establishment of an Engineering College in Iran

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, Educational Adviser to the Consortium and Chancellor of the Abadan Technical Institute.
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI.

COPIES TO:

S/S-2	GTI-2
INR-2	ICA
O	USIA
W	AmEmbassy, London
E	AmEmbassy, Tehran
NEA	AmConsulate, Khorramshahr

18

Dr. Hutchison said that he just returned from a trip to Iran and to London where he had investigated further the possibilities of establishing an engineering college in Iran. In London he had determined that the participant director for Standard Oil of California, John Thacher, had introduced, presumably with the backing of the other American members of the Consortium, a proposal that the Consortium contribute financially to the founding of an engineering college in Iran located anywhere but Abadan. Dr. Hutchison added that no vote had been taken.

In Iran he had found as expected a somewhat hostile Scholtens (the General Manager of Consortium operations in Iran) who accused him of exceeding his authority in discussing a proposed expansion of the Abadan Technical Institute with the American parent companies and the Department of State. According to Dr. Hutchison, Mr. Scholtens told him to cease and desist from any further approaches. Mr. Mouser asked why Mr. Scholtens took this position. Dr. Hutchison replied that he gave four ostensible reasons for his opposition: a firm conviction that the Technical Institute should be operated only to further Consortium operations; a desire to avoid furnishing trained engineers for competitors, e.g. Standard of Indiana; a belief that the Consortium did not require a large number of trained Iranian engineers and; that an entering class at the Institute should number no more than 30. On this last point, Mr. Scholtens had agreed reluctantly that 15 additional students could be trained as draftsmen and, next year, 15 more as engineering accountants.

Dr. Hutchison stated that Mr. Scholtens' real reasons for opposition to expansion probably stemmed from the following factors: that any larger enrollment would mean an increase in capital expenditures by the participating companies; that Mr. Scholtens had agreed reluctantly to continue an educational program begun by his predecessor; that he had done so without obtaining the concurrence of his superiors in London and; that he believed that Tehran University opposition constituted a serious deterrent. On this last point, Dr. Hutchison commented that the University was not opposed for academic reasons, but only because it now received financial help from the Consortium which it feared might be lost. Curiously enough, although the participant directors in London had not considered the Thacher proposal, Mr. Scholtens had already told the NIOC that the Consortium would contribute financially to an engineering college located other than at Abadan.

Mr. Mouser asked if reports were true, that the NIOC would take over the management of the Abadan Institute. Dr. Hutchison replied that this step was now rumored for the Spring of 1959. There were two alternatives for the NIOC; it could operate the Institute as a non-basic under the Consortium Agreement by which the Consortium would continue financial support and guide the Institute as to policy, or the Institute could be moved and operated by the NIOC as a non-non-basic. In the latter case, the NIOC would have to provide most of the funds, but in turn would have policy control. The Consortium would make a financial contribution and take some of the graduates for oil operations. Mr. Scholtens would prefer this latter course since his basic attitude involves a desire to be rid of the Institute one way or another. A basic disagreement immediately arose since the NIOC insists that the Institute be located at Abadan in any event.

Dr. Hutchison said that he had been asked by Mr. Thacher to draw up plans for an engineering college to be located in Khuzistan. He personally believed that Ahwaz would be the best locale since it served as provincial capital and as headquarters for the Khuzistan Development Authority and Standard of Indiana. Dr. Hutchison added that Shiraz was not as good because its attractive location and climate would act as deterrents to service in Khuzistan where the engineering graduates would be needed primarily. Mr. Mouser mentioned the Shah's great interest in an American-style university, located perhaps in Shiraz. We had informed the Shah that we might be able to help an existing institution but that we did not have a capacity to create a university. Dr. Hutchison expressed familiarity with this development and acknowledged that Shiraz might also serve as the location of the engineering college, perhaps in conjunction with the proposed university. He doubted that the present Shiraz University offered much for the future.

Dr. Hutchison concluded on a note of optimism, while recognizing the difficulties. He promised to inform the Department of new developments.

C

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

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888.2553/1-2559
NR 888.432

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Consulate, KHORRAMSHAHR — 47 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — January 25, 1959 DATE

REF : ConDesp No. 28, November 3, 1958

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	NEA-4	INFO Rm/R-2 REP-1 IRC-8 L-2 IO-4 IES-5 E-MEA/R-5 RSA-10
	REC'D 2/20	OTHER CIA-10 IN-7 COM-17 OSD-4 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3

1959 FEB 24 AM 11 17 MESSAGE CENTER

SUBJECT: NIOC SCHEDULES TAKE OVER OF AIT FOR JUNE 1, 1959

(6)

During a conversation in the Consulate in mid-December Dr. Ralph C. HUTCHISON, educational advisor to the consortium, confirmed earlier reports that the National Iranian Oil Company will take over the Abadan Institute of Technology on June 1, 1959. In the meantime AIT is concentrating on improvements in its physical plant and has been successful in building up its engineering faculty.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Dr. Hutchison's first visit to Khorramshahr/Abadan since the arrival of the reporting officer permitted a review with him and with Dr. Walter A. GROVES, President of AIT, of the present status of the Institute and its probable future.

According to Dr. Hutchison, he has been informed by Allen HUGHES of the consortium's Tehran headquarters that NIOC has not only decided to take over AIT but has established a committee to impliment the decision on June 1, 1959. Both Hutchison and Groves are satisfied with this decision and appear to believe that unless NIOC does take over the Institute completely, it will remain nothing more than a trade school for the Abadan refinery. It is clear to them that the consortium management, particularly K. SCHOLTENS, General Managing Director, has and will continue to ignore the recommendations of the Lafayette Survey Group (Ref ConDesp No. 43 of May 27, 1958). These recommendations called for material enlargement of the Institute into an engineering college which would provide engineers of all types for Iran.

In the meanwhile, AIT has built up its engineering faculty which Groves and Hutchison believe is now superior to that of the American University of Beirut.

Between now and June 1, AIT will concentrate on further physical improvements which Scholtens has approved to the surprise of Hutchison and Groves. The latter believe that Scholtens is attempting to prove to NIOC that they cannot afford to take over the Institute. Actually Scholtens is playing into NIOC hands, Hutchison and Groves believe, because NIOC will use present AIT budgets as a basis for demands for consortium contributions to AIT when and if the Institute is transferred as a "non-non-basic".* The figures for the current year are $1,000,000 for improvements and $750,000 for operating expenses. The argument that NIOC cannot afford to take over the Institute is nonsense in the opinion of both Hutchison and Groves.

- -

*"Basic" operations are defined as those directly contributing to the production and refining of oil. "Non-basics" are operations supporting basic operations. "Non-non-basic" is the term used for what is described as "other activities".

JMBowie/wwb
REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

There are no signs that anyone in the consortium is willing to reconsider the decision to ignore the Lafayette recommendations nor are there indications that anyone in the Consortium understands the political ramifications of this matter. In this connection Dr. Hutchison recalled MOSADEQ's statement to him that he could not have "gotten rid of the British" without the AIT issue. Hutchison finds in the consortium's present stand a persistance of what he calls the AIOC attitude.

Hutchison charges that following the February 1958 meeting of AIT trustees Scholtens changed the sense of the trustees' decision from postponement of the implimentation of Lafayette recommendations to a refusal to consider them.

COMMENT:

In common with many other people here, Hutchison and Groves tend to become unbalanced when Scholtens' name is mentioned. My British colleague, John BENNETT, seems to find it impossible to talk about Scholtens rationally and claims to have caught him in an outright lie.

While trying to take into consideration the bias with which Hutchison and Groves and their associates view Scholtens and his approach to AIT, it does seem that the consortium management is making a dangerous mountain out of the AIT molehill. The statement that Iranians view AIT emotionally is frequently heard and undoubtedly true. The fact that the issue is one which generates considerable feeling among Iranians would seem to argue against the consortium's insistence on this unpopular stand. The consortium's attitude, of course, is interpreted by many Iranians here as another proof of refusal by the western oil companies to educate Iranians so that they may become qualified to take a greater part in the exploitation of their country's natural resources.

John M. Bowie
American Consul

copies sent to: TEHRAN, ISFAHAN, MESHED, TABRIZ

D

File - education

[illegible]

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Washington

June 30-July 3, 1958

On Martian Universities in Iran
(Background Paper)

The attached paper was drafted by GAI - Mr. Hunter and has been cleared by O - Mr. Henderson, EAF - Mr. Rountree, IRNA - Mr. Leahue and GAI - Messrs. Williams and Mehdevi. It is circulated for your information.

Norman T. Skofield
S/S-RO
Room 5005, Extension 5261

Attachment:

As stated.

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : NEA - Mr. Hart

DATE: February 27, 1959

FROM : GTI - Murat W. Williams

SUBJECT: Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison

Discussion:

Dayton Mak has told us of your interest in obtaining some information regarding Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison. We understand that he has written to you regarding the possible establishment of an American college, in or near Jerusalem.

Dr. Hutchison is a former President of Lafayette College. He is presently employed by the International Oil Consortium as educational adviser and as Chancellor of the Abadan Institute of Technology in Iran. We have heard that Dr. Hutchison is a leading Republican in his home state of Pennsylvania and it was rumored at one time that he might be the Republican candidate for governor of that state in last year's elections. Dr. Hutchison seems to enjoy considerable influence in educational and political circles in the United States. He is a very active man, energetic in pursuit of projects he deems worthy, but inclined to headstrong action if encouraged even slightly. He would probably prove most helpful in furthering the Jerusalem project, but it would be necessary to exercise care that he did not misquote the Department or commit the U. S. Government to action prematurely.

We have seen a great deal of Dr. Hutchison in the last year because of his keen interest in transforming the existing Abadan Institute, which is presently run by the Consortium, into a full-fledged engineering college. In pursuing this end, he has gotten into difficulties with the Managing Director of Consortium operations in Iran, his immediate superior. The Consortium is apparently opposed to this transformation, but would be willing to contribute to the support of an engineering college located elsewhere in Iran. We have told Dr. Hutchison that there might be something that the U. S. Government could do, but only if there were an existing institution to support.

We have received directly from Dr. Hutchison a copy of a letter dated February 14, 1959 which was addressed to you (Tab A). Dr. Hutchison seems to have changed his ground somewhat since we last talked with him (Tab B). At that time he was interested in the establishment of a college other than at Abadan and had apparently accepted as final the Consortium's decision not to use the Abadan Institute as the vehicle for the founding of an engineering college in Iran. It is not clear to us what Dr. Hutchison now has in mind in his proposal on page 4 of the letter to you. A recent despatch from our

Consulate in Khorramshahr (Tab C) and a briefing paper on this subject prepared for the Shah's visit (Tab D) are attached for your information.

Recommendation:

We believe that any reply you might wish to send to Dr. Hutchison on an American college in Iran, should seek more information on his current proposal. Mr. Henderson was of the opinion when we last discussed this with him that the Department should refrain from any further approaches to the Consortium on this matter. Until we have a clearer picture, therefore, of what Dr. Hutchison has in mind, we should probably be as noncommittal as possible in any comment we make to him.

Attachments:

Letter from Dr. Hutchison (Tab A)
Memorandum of Conversation (Tab B)
Khorramshahr Despatch No. 47 (Tab C)
Briefing Paper (Tab D)

NEA:GTI:GEMbuser:ges

(64)

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : NEA - Parker T. Hart DATE: March 9, 1959

FROM : NEA - Dayton S. Mak

SUBJECT: Proposal Put Forth by Ralph Cooper Hutchison

Attached hereto are (1) another letter to you from Mr. Hutchison dated March 6, 1959, and (2) a draft letter from you to Mr. Hutchison which has been drafted by NEA/P.

NEA/P has discussed the financial aspects of Mr. Hutchison's proposals with appropriate agencies of the United States Government and has concluded that the United States Government can not finance the establishment of new institutions such as Mr. Hutchison proposes. The draft letter of NEA/P informs Mr. Hutchison of this fact.

I wonder, however, if you want to send such a letter to Mr. Hutchison in view of the fact that you will be seeing him some time during the week of March 16 at which time you could explain more fully our inability to render the financial assistance suggested by Mr. Hutchison in his various memoranda.

Talk lunch 3/19/59 mgc

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NEA:DSMak:gs:3/9/59

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Declassified by RMH

(1)

ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON — FROM
319 ALPHA BUILDING
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER
IRANIAN OIL OPERATING COMPANIES
P. O. Box 1065
KUCHEH YAGHMA
TEHERAN, IRAN

CHANCELLOR
ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ABADAN, IRAN

March 6, 1959

Dear Mr. Hart:

While you are mulling over the Jordan and Iranian situation there will inevitably rise questions as to just how this kind of thing might be done, in fact you may encounter more questions in the department over the "how" than over the actual project. This is usually true.

I have therefore gone ahead and written another memorandum suggesting how this might be done in Iran. This constitutes a pattern which would probably be roughly the same as in any other critical country of the Near East.

My thought is that essentially in this emergency step America would furnish the men for the leadership and not go very extensively into the capital outlay excepting of the housing of our own American faculty representatives.

I hope I can come down this next week and you can have lunch or dinner with me.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph Cooper Hutchison

3/9/59

Deputy Undersecretary Parker T. Hart
New State Department Building
Virginia at Twentieth Streets
Washington, D.C.

888.43/3-6-59

Memorandum to Mr. Parker T. Hart
Department of State
March 2, 1959
Supplement to the Memo on Iran and an American University

THE "HOW" OF ESTABLISHING NOW AN AMERICAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY IN IRAN

Introduction

The long and fervent desire for an American college of high standards in Iran is thoroughly understood by the State Department. The confused state of the various movements in Iran toward this end were reviewed in the previous memorandum. Political events of the last weeks, the rejection of Soviet overtures, the affirmation by Iran of its membership in the Bagdad Pact, the new alliance between America and Iran, the house arrest of Ebtahaj and the shifting of the Seven Year Plan to Eghbal -- these all conspire to create a situation whereby just now the presentation of a plan backed by funds would greatly strengthen the government, would electrify the whole nation, and would confirm the position of America as would nothing else that could be accomplished with many times the amount required for this purpose.

The various elements involved within Iran are at a place of decision and no commitments have been made which would hinder a precipitating force and impact. The Consortium has responded to the NIOC demand to take over AIT by proposing that they do so on the humorously termed "non non-basic" arrangement whereby they would set up a technical college as they wish it and where they wish it, so it not be in Abadan, and they have offered generous and long time support if they will do this. Doctor Alam has become convinced that an American Technical University may not have to be in Shiraz, certainly not in Teheran. The Rockefeller Foundation, conceding to a request from the Shah is shortly to send a commission to study an American University - we assume from the angle of medical education and research to which they have confined their foreign interests. The educational aspects of the Seven Year Plan will undoubtedly be reviewed under this new direction. Reputedly the leadership of the Consortium is about to undergo a change which may result in a more generous and eager interest in a technical college. The charter of AIT is in process and not yet firmed up.

Now is the time both internationally and internally when an American Technical College or University could precipitate all of these forces and establish something monumental.

I. How this Cannot be Done

This really cannot be done by the Consortium because the funds in the Consortium come from Britain, Netherland, France as well as America. They could presumably establish a "western" university but not an American. The Iranians want a distinctly American institution.

It cannot be done by the NIOC, or the Seven Year Plan because Iran in between the various powers and cannot with its funds establish anything but an Iranian institution. This is why the Shiraz plan to combine the several government institutions there in an American University is an impossible contradiction.

It cannot be done with funds from Point Four or directly from the American government because it will then be suspect and under attack as a political move.

All of these forces can contribute and support but an American University must be built from the ground up with American leadership and with funds from America making the first impact.

II. How It Can be Done

1. Establish at an American University a Middle East Institute for the promotion of higher education in the Middle East which will accept and handle the administration of funds for American colleges in the Middle East. We have found one great university deeply interested in just such service.

2. Solicit funds for this purpose from the oil companies, the construction firms and others interested in Iran and the Middle East. But because of the time element, channel the basic fund into this foundation for immediate impact in Iran.

3. Armed with this backing I would go out as soon as possible, persuade NIOC to accept the proposition of the Consortium, secure their adherence (which I think we already have) to an independent American Iranian Board, win the adherence of the Shah, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Court, the Minister of Education, and the government to the plan - and we would be on our way. We would have captured the continuing support of the Consortium, the rather extensive educational funds of NIOC, and perhaps most important the extraordinary nucleus of American faculty and administration now in AIT. Finally we would have certainly the use of the splendidly developing AIT campus until the first buildings of a new campus are ready, or until all parties concerned would be persuaded to develop and use the AIT campus at Abadan (worth about two million - improvements now in process about one million).

III. Briefs on the Plan for such a College

Though it would <u>inevitably</u> broaden out to arts, it should <u>begin</u> as a technical college teaching engineering and related fields. The reasons for this are three in number:

1. Iran needs shirt-sleeve engineers, and adequately trained engineers. They are not being produced at Teheran University for reasons which I can give. Those trained abroad are not willing to come back and work from the bottom up - indeed usually not willing to come back at all.

2. Arts involve literature, philosophy, political science, sociology and there is an increasing feeling in the Middle East that arts should be taught within the context if not the language of the national culture. But science and engineering is international and so recognized, can only be mastered in English, and the Middle East has not questioned that these should be taught in the western context. Furthermore arts unavoidably involve political thought. Arts students in the Middle East are chronically involved in the political controversies and revolutions. An engineering college has much better opportunity to avoid political involvements.

3. Soviet agents in the Middle East have already testified to the impenetrable nature of engineering and science institutions for their work, and conversely have professed that the arts institutions are "duck soup" for them.

When we insist that it should be an American College and that this is what the Iranians want, we actually mean a college under American leadership and standards which would after ten or fifteen years become completely Iranian in leadership, in control and in support. The college should be launched as American in the above sense but planned to become Iranian, and be Iranian supported eventually. The elements making it American, as planned at AIT and as should be planned here, would be as follows:

1. American officers and Americans as heads of all faculty academic departments, the rest of the faculty Iranian if possible.

2. American standards of engineering and science education - the same standard of work and attainment and teaching as at an accredited engineering college in America.

3. Half or third of the Board American citizens, but with the American citizens constituting a committee in control of American funds.

4. Incorporated and accredited in both Iran and America.

5. Instruction in English.

6. A well-established office in America for the raising of funds, for the administration of American funds, for the recruitment of American faculty and personnel, for the maintenance on academic relationships with colleges, universities and societies - this under the direction of the American trustees.

IV. American Funds and their Administration

Our proposal for the handling of American Funds is rather unusual and based on long experience in the Middle East, as well as on the exchange and monetary situations in the Middle East.

1. The offer of funds for the establishment of this University would include something like the following:

a. Guarantee of the salary, travel, pension payments, of the American officers and faculty for ten years, this money to be placed in escrow under control of an American committee or university and released as needed.

b. Provision of all scientific equipment and laboratory equipment purchased in America, plus shipping costs, and the estimated amount necessary to be placed in trust or escrow for that purpose and used as needed under direction of the American committee or university.

c. Provision of the library books for a technical college library of 25,000 volumes, and for the annual supplements thereto, again placing the money for this out of the original grants in trust or escrow funds.

d. Provision of the American office, director, staff, travel, and all necessary expenses, again estimating the sum and placing it in trust for that purpose.

e. Provision of the travel expenses and fees of Americans on the Board again establishing a trust fund to cover this for ten years.

f. Provision of the residences and apartments to be built (or purchased) for the American staff and faculty, together with escrow fund for annual maintenance.

g. Provision for an annual payment to the American University sponsoring academically the college, with an escrow fund set up for this purpose for ten years.

The plan would be that with such an offer, the Consortium, and NIOC together with other donors in Iran and America could give the other funds necessary to get the college underway. The above items have not been figured out but the total will prove to be a very impressive offer and will, I am convinced, galvanize Iran into action. At the same time the major part of the funds would not be used, or lost, if for any reason the plans failed to work out, and could not possibly be dissipated in bad administration or handling in Iran. Donors to the funds, and also of any endowment funds which might be given, would be able to watch their investment with confidence.

America would not be setting up a college with a perpetual responsibility for its support but would be launching a college which after ten years or fifteen would be finally given to Iran with all the privileges and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Ralph Cooper Hutchison

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES DATE: March 9, 1959

FROM :

SUBJECT: U.S. Aid Possibilities for Proposed University in Iran

There appears to be no reasonable prospect of U.S. funds from existing sources for the proposed American university in Tehran. Proceeds from the PL-480 agreement signed in 1956 have been expended or allocated; I am told that no other PL-480 agreement is contemplated for the foreseeable future. Funds deriving from Section 400 (c) of the Mutual Security Act apply only to existing American schools; neither adjective is descriptive of Dr. Hutchison's project. Financial support of a new university in Tehran would be inconsistent with present ICA objectives in that country.

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NEA/P:DLStora:ebb

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : NEA--Mr. Dayton Mak

DATE: March 9, 1959

FROM : NEA/P--Harold Sims

SUBJECT: Proposed American University for Iran

Herewith is a suggested draft of a letter from Mr. Hart to Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison. There is also attached a memorandum on U. S. aid possibilities for a proposed university in Iran.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Letter to Dr. R. C. Hutchison.
2. Draft Memorandum.

888.4332/3-959

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NEA/P:ebb

DRAFT OF LETTER FROM MR. HART TO DR. RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON

Dear Dr. Hutchison:

I have read with [redacted] interest the memorandum on an American university in Iran which you kindly sent me on February 13. This was a useful supplement to your memorandum of January 11 outlining your proposal to establish American technical colleges in several countries of the Middle East.

We have thoroughly explored the various possibilities of U. S. Government financial participation in this type of project, and find that there are no provisions to enable the U. S. Government to finance the ~~building~~ establishment of a new institution such as you propose. Financial aid is financial contribution extended to a variety of institutions which are already established. The Department of State, as you know, has taken the view that it is not in a position to assist in the establishment of new educational institutions abroad. Therefore, under present circumstances it would appear that there is no reasonable prospect of official funds being available for this phase of the project.

The idea of establishing American-sponsored technical colleges in the Near East [redacted] unquestionably is one of considerable merit. Should you be in Washington in the near future, I would be happy to discuss the matter with you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Parker T. Hart

NEA/P:DLStora:ebb

ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON — FROM
319 ALPHA BUILDING
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER
IRANIAN OIL OPERATING COMPANIES
P. O. Box 1065
KUCHEH YAGHMA
TEHERAN, IRAN

CHANCELLOR
ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ABADAN, IRAN

March 11, 1959

Dear Mr. Hart:

I have this morning code that K. Scholtens, General Managing Director of the Consortium has definitely been removed. This could mean liquidation of the opposition to the development of an American Technical University which might include the indispensable assets in leadership now on the job at Abadan Institute of Technology. Another advice from an Iranian is that the N.I.O.C. is deliberately postponing negotiations for the take-over of AIT by N.I.O.C. until this change of Management has been accomplished.

All of which means that the situation is fluid, that contrary commitments are not made, that they will be made sometime after April first, that we could now with a bold and wisely guarded offer precipitate the various elements, establish the great American Technical University that has been so long desired by the King and leaders of the Government, strengthen Iran immeasurably in its present position vis-a-vis Iraq and the Soviets, establish an institution not channeled through or tied to the existing regime, and one which would not imply perpetual support. It is the perfect moment for action.

I talked with your secretary yesterday. She thought that you and Mr. Mauser might be able to have lunch with me some day next week. I am to call her on Monday.

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph Cooper Hutchison

The Honorable Parker C. Hart
Deputy-Undersecretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs,
State Department
Virginia Avenue
Washington, D.C.

NEA:GTI:GEMouser:ges
(Drafting Office and Officer)

(22) M-845

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888.432/3-1959
PR 885.432

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 19, 1959

SUBJECT: American Universities in Iran and Jordan

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ralph C. Hutchison, Chancellor, Abadan Institute of Technology, Abadan, Iran
Mr. Parker T. Hart, Deputy Assistant Secretary, NEA
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge of Iranian Affairs, GTI

(2)

COPIES TO: S/S ~~-2~~, INR, IRC - 8, NEA - 2cc, GTI-3 (1-cc), NE, NR, P, ICA, Amembassy Amman, Amembassy Tehran, Amcongen Jerusalem, Amconsulate Khorramshahr

(24)

MAR 25 1959

During a luncheon, Dr. Hutchison expounded his views on the need for U. S. governmental support of American universities in Iran and Jordan. He mentioned twice his own availability to participate personally in these ventures. Mr. Hart said that this subject had been examined carefully within the U. S. Government and it had been determined that the U. S. Government, as such, had no capacity to create a university in either country. If there were existing institutions on the other hand, we could sympathetically consider what we might do to help. This did not mean that the institutions had to be in actual operation. Another consideration involved the rising tide of nationalism in Middle Eastern countries. It was somewhat doubtful that a purely American institution would be welcome over the long term. Mr. Hart observed that the American University in Beirut, which had played such an important role in increasing American prestige in the area, had nevertheless been established at the time of the Ottoman Empire when conditions were different.

Mr. Mouser said that, personally speaking, it would be better for Iran, for example, to establish a national engineering institute in a city of its own choice and announce at the same time that in its initial stages its curriculum and instruction would follow the pattern of American engineering colleges. Once this was done, it might be possible contributions would be made from many sources, such as private foundations, the Consortium, the Iranian Government, and perhaps the American Government. This type of college would not be as vulnerable to nationalistic propaganda as would be a purely American institution.

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APR - 3 1959

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Mr. Hart asked about the present status of the Abadan Institute of Technology. Dr. Hutchison commented that Mr. Scholtens, the primary opponent of a Consortium venture into the educational field was almost certain to retire in the Spring. It could then be determined whether the opposition to the expansion of the Institute stemmed primarily from him or from certain of his superiors. According to reports from Iran, the NIOC would shortly take over the operation of the Institute. The Consortium had agreed to finance 30 Iranian students but would not make a further contribution except to an Institute located elsewhere in Iran. The Institute would be expanded to take increasing numbers of students and would probably enjoy considerably more independence. An American contribution to the Institute would be politically and psychologically a wise thing for U. S. interests in Iran. Dr. Hutchison said that he personally liked the idea of a national engineering college, located somewhere in Iran, but modeled after an American engineering school. He did not think, however, that the Iranian Government would take the step of its own volition.

Mr. Mouser suggested that it might be wise to rename the Institute the Abadan Engineering College, since the word "technical" left the impression that the school was a vocational high school of some type. Dr. Hutchison said that this was a good idea.

In concluding the conversation, Mr. Hart reaffirmed our interest in this subject and our desire to be kept informed of new developments. Dr. Hutchison assured Mr. Hart that he would report such developments. Mr. Hart reiterated his earlier remarks to the effect that while we were sympathetic to a possible approach for assistance to a university or technical college, we could not promise such help in advance, or be quoted as having given an advance assurance.

ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RALPH COOPER HUTCHISON
319 ALPHA BUILDING
EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER
IRANIAN OIL OPERATING COMPANIES
P. O. Box 1065
KUCHEH YAGHMA
TEHERAN, IRAN

CHANCELLOR
ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ABADAN, IRAN

March 24, 1959

Dear Mr. Hart:

Trying to assess our conference of the other day it seems to me that your point was that aid, such as I have suggested, could not be given to something new, but that it could be available after it was well started.

This would apply to the Jerusalem-Jordan proposal and to those which I propose in Iraq, Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. I think, however, that this very policy should be questioned, and I hope that you can arrange a small conference in which I might define my thesis.

My proposal is that in these instances such as Jerusalem-Jordan the aid would be a one shot appeal. It would come through an American university and to that university apparently through gifts from oil companies and foundations. It would be handled as a fund for the support of an American faculty and a few other aspects over a ten year period during which time the college would get on its own feet or after which it would close up.

Survival after this period is not important. The important thing is the impact of a struggling virile college in its formative stages, and its value to the United States and its western cause would be entirely in the immediate present. It would be on the Browning philosophy, that true significance is in the "struggle" not the victory, and the accompanying philosophy the "perpetuity" of an institution is a false objective. The real objective is to create an integrating factor in new nations right now and to establish a virile American contribution which will impress the nations now.

I hope, therefore, that you will reconsider this philosophy and that we may have a conference on this subject.

However, this objection does not pertain to the Iranian proposal. There the institution is started. It has a faculty of eighteen with very distinguished American professors, probably the ablest President in any oriental college, two million dollar campus, an operating budget this year of about $760,000 plus a capital improvement program of about one million dollars and anticipated support of a million a year. Three undergraduate

classes are in the college and graduate work is underway. The funds which I am seeking are not for the establishment of something new.

These funds are being sought to precipitate a fluid situation and to transform this well established college into an American-Iranian Technical University for all Iran. They are to confirm the purpose and strengthen the hands of those who are endeavoring to make this into an independent university and to establish an independent Board, to build a new campus, the place still to be determined, and the suggestion here is that these funds be made available only if that is accomplished, and then only for the support of the American members of the faculty and administration, their residence requirements, the library and scientific facilities to be purchased in America.

The institution will meet the standards suggested by Mr. Mauser as being essentially Iranian. The Americans being there to head up the administration and departments during this ten or fifteen year period, the rest of the faculty to be Iranian, and Iran to replace all Americans after this period.

Since the Iran proposition is not the starting of a new institution and therefore not subject to the prohibition which you mentioned, may we have a conference with whatever officials you feel necessary for the further discussion of this proposal?

Very sincerely yours,

Reza Pahlavi

Mr. Parker T. Hart
Under Secretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs
New State Department Building
Washington, D.C.

RCH:cgc

April 7, 1959

Dear Dr. Hutchison:

Thank you for your interesting letter of March 24, 1959. I was glad to have this further expression of your views, but as I said the other day during luncheon, the United States Government does not have the capacity to create a university. Any possible assistance we might be able to render would have to be based on aid to an existing institution. As you know, I also have personal doubts about the wisdom of establishing today purely American institutions in other countries.

As to the Abadan Technical Institute, it is important to determine first what the intentions of the Iran Government and the Consortium are toward further development of the Institute before deciding what, if anything, we might be able to do. Perhaps these matters will be clarified after the April meeting in London between the Consortium and the National Iranian Oil Company. As you know, the Iranian Government's position is not clear in that Iranian leaders have referred from time to time to the founding of a college or university at a location other than Abadan. If the National Iranian Oil Company does in fact take over the responsibility for the Institute and the Iranian Government makes the necessary decision to transform the Institute into a national college, we might then review the situation with you. It is essential, however, that both the Iranian Government and the Consortium reach agreement on the future of the Institute.

I have enjoyed discussing these matters with you and I hope that you will inform us of any further developments.

Sincerely yours,

Parker T. Hart
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern
and South Asian Affairs

Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison,
Abadan Institute of Technology,
319 Alpha Building,
Easton, Pennsylvania.

Clearances:
NEA - Mr. Ludlow
(in draft)

S/S-CR

APR 7 1959 P.M.

after Day.

NEA:GTI:GEMouser:gld

GTI

April 1, 1959

GTI - Mr. Mouser

Attached is another letter from Mr. Hutchison dated March 24, 1959, on his favorite subject. Mr. Hart requests that a letter be prepared for his signature to Dr. Hutchison replying negatively but politely to Dr. Hutchison's request that we reconsider the "philosophy" as he calls it. With regard to the Abadan portion Mr. Hart suggests that you use your own judgment as to how best to reply. You will probably wish to confer with ~~MR~~ Ludlow on the first part.

D. F. Mak

Attachment: As noted.

P.S. Ludlow has the file on this.

April 23, 1959

Dear Dr. Hutchison:

Your letter to the President of April 6, 1959, has been referred to the Department of State with the suggestion that you might wish to discuss your thoughts on the subject of American-led colleges in the Middle East with Departmental officers. In view of our earlier conversation, I am at your disposal to review this matter with you.

I continue to believe, as you pointed out in a memorandum enclosed in your letter of March 6 to me with reference to a technical university in Iran, that the initial establishment of such colleges is not a matter for the United States Government to determine or to finance. However desirable the development of such institutions may be in a number of respects, it seems clear to me that the impetus would have to come from private sources acting in cooperation with either private groups in the country concerned or with the government of that country.

I am ready to discuss this matter further with you at your convenience. If you are planning to be in Washington in the near future, I suggest you let me know several days in advance in order that we may be able to arrange sufficient time for a full discussion.

Sincerely,

Parker T. Hart
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison,
Abadan Institute of Technology,
319 Alpha Building,
Easton, Pennsylvania.

NEA:GTI:RLPerkins:GEMouser:gld:mgw 4/22/59

Clearances:

NEA - Mr. Ludlow

P - Mr. Parker

S/IC - Mr. Grayson

Dear Dr. Hutchison:

Your letter to the President of April 6, 1959, has been referred to the Department of State with the suggestion that you might wish to discuss your thoughts on the subject of American-led colleges in the Middle East with Departmental officers. In view of our earlier conversation, I ~~would welcome a further opportunity~~ at your convenience to review this matter with you.

I continue to believe, as you pointed out in a memorandum enclosed in your letter of March 6 to me with reference to a technical university in Iran, that the initial establishment of such colleges is not a matter for the United States Government to determine or to finance. However desirable the development of such institutions may be in a number of respects, it seems clear to me that the impetus would have to come from private sources acting in cooperation with other private groups in the country concerned or with the government of that country.

I ~~should be very happy~~ am ready to discuss the matter further with you at your convenience. If you are planning to be in Washington in the near future, ~~I hope that we will be able to resume our conversations on this interesting subject.~~ I may get you at my home several days in advance and I may be able to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely yours,

Parker T. Hart
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern
and South Asian Affairs

Dr. Ralph Cooper Hutchison,
Abadan Institute of Technology,
319 Alpha Building,
Easton, Pennsylvania.

Clearance:
NEA - Mr. Ludlow
P - Mr. Parker
S/IC - Mr. Grayson

NEA:GTI:RLPerkins:GEMouser:gld (4/21/59)

The Iran Foundation, Inc.

FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN IRAN

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK
TEL: LONGACRE 3-5920

CABLE ADDRESS
'BONYADIRAN'

REFERENCE: 85

September 1, 1959

Honorable Loy Henderson
Deputy Secretary of the Department of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Henderson:

It was a great pleasure and honor for Dr. Zabih Ghorban, Chancellor of Shiraz University, and myself to see you again and discuss the very important matter of establishing an American type university in Shiraz.

According to your instructions, I have prepared a memorandum giving the salient points on this undertaking. I am enclosing two copies for your kind perusal. In addition, I am enclosing two copies of a memorandum prepared by Dr. Ghorban on the same subject.

Hoping to see you soon and thanking you for all your kind interest in my country, I am

Respectfully,

A. Torab Mehra/ore.c.

A. T. Mehra, M. D., Director
Shiraz Medical Center

(Signed in Dr. Mehra's absence while he was in Chicago.)

TO: Honorable Loy Henderson
Deputy Secretary of the Department of State

August 28, 1959

FROM: A. Torab Mehra
Secretary to the Committee on The Establishment of an American Type of University in Shiraz

MEMORANDUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN TYPE OF UNIVERSITY IN SHIRAZ

1. The Shah of Iran, following the footsteps of his great father, instituted many changes in the country with a view toward raising the standard of living of all the people and modernizing the country.

2. In persuit of the above objective, a considerable amount of encouragement was given to the Iranian students to go abroad for further education.

3. As of the end of the second World War a large number of these students chose to come to the United States instead of going to the European countries.

4. Some of these students completed their studies in America and returned to Iran, dedicating themselves to the betterment of Iranian conditions, but unfortunately the larger portion decided to remain in the United States, at least temporarily, and their absence resulted in a great loss of human resources to Iran.

5. A key to the extensive development of Iran obviously is the trained personnel whose dedication and qualifications lead to various activities within the country. The existing universities of Iran would be quite unable to produce such leaders because of their lower standards and archaic methods.

6. Viewing this situation, His Imperial Majesty and his governmental leaders on several occasions approached the United States Government and the leaders of education in America to help the Government of Iran in establishing an American type of university. H. I. M. discussed this matter with the President and the Vice President of the United States of America, Mr. Nelson Rockefeller and Mr. Hill of the Ford Foundation.

7. During March, 1958, H. I. M., through His Excellency Ala, the Minister of Court, commissioned Dr. A. T. Mehra, Director of the Shiraz Medical Center, to talk this matter over with Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, Mr. Loy Henderson and Mr. Hill, Director of the Ford Foundation.

8. Through the kindness of Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, Dr. Mehra was introduced to Dr. Lindsey Kimball, the Executive Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, who showed a considerable amount of interest in the whole project. Following the suggestion made by Dr. Kimball, a letter of invitation was sent from H. I. M.'s Court to Dr. Dean Rusk, the President of the Rockefeller Foundation, requesting him to visit Iran for further negotiation.

During H. I. M.'s visit to the United States in June, 1958, a meeting of Dr. Kimball, the Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Brugher, the Director of Public Health and H. I. M. took place in the Embassy of Iran, Washington, D. C., in which H. I. M. expressed his desire for the above objective.

9. In the absence of Dr. Dean Rusk from the United States a reply was received stating that a team from the Rockefeller Foundation had already been instructed to proceed to Iran to make a study of the situation.

10. The Rockefeller team arrived in Iran October, 1958, and during the two weeks there discussed the above objective with various leaders of the country and also met with the local committee which was established by His Excellency Ala, the Minister of Court, to discuss implementation. So far, unfortunately no report by the Rockefeller team has been given out, and nothing has been heard concerning the Rockefeller Foundation's views on this subject.

EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

1. During this period of waiting it was definitely decided that the Shiraz University should become this American type of university.

2. Through the generosity of two families, an area of 5,000 acres of land was set aside four miles north of Shiraz on the way to the Ancient Ruins of Persepolis for a future campus.

3. From the oil royalties and other resources the Government of Iran had already allocated the equivalent of $1,000,000 in rials to the University of Shiraz for the building of the necessary student dormitories. The program also projects the payment of an additional $10,000,000 during the next six years for the above purpose.

4. Four faculties have already been established in the city of Shiraz, namely the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Literature and the Faculty of Agriculture. The Faculty of Medicine has had a limited number of students. A high standard of basic science has been maintained by bringing teachers from England and other countries. English is the compulsory language of the school, and English and American texts have been provided for the use of the students.

5. On the clinical level, through affiliation with the Shiraz Medical Center, the students were given the opportunity of working as clerk, intern and resident in the Nemazee Hospital and were exposed to the training by American and American-trained Iranian staff of the Nemazee Hospital. Through the financial help of the I. C. A. the Iran Foundation has been able to bring an increasing number of American physicians and surgeons to the Nemazee Hospital for this purpose.

6. Laws have already been presented to the Parliament in order to make this university free from an archaic mode of administration and to make the possibility of full-time employment of the staff a reality. The Government of Iran increased its support of the American type school and the Shiraz Medical Center 60% over and above its previous contribution.

7. It is the desire of H. I. M. and all the leaders of the Government of Iran that the Shiraz University be organized on a typically American pattern in order to serve as a stepping stone for many Iranian students already in America and to serve as a model for the rest of the country. It is also hoped that this university by its practical American approach may be able to train more Iranians as future leaders, thus causing a chain reaction in the reconstruction of the country.

8. H. I. M., Mr. Ala, the Minister of Education, and the Government of Iran have recently empowered Dr. Ghorban, the Chancellor of the Shiraz University, to come to the United States and approach various interested agencies and foundations in order to seek their guidance and assistance for the implementation of the above objectives.

CONCLUSION

During Dr. Ghorban's present visit to the United States (August 24 through the second week of September,) it is hoped that all the interested parties may be brought together in order to clarify their conditions for participation in a mutual project in which all may cooperate.

PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SHIRAZ AS AN AMERICAN-TYPE UNIVERSITY

by

Zabih Ghorban, M.D., M.D., Chancellor, University of Shiraz, Iran

Introduction

During the past two years there has been a growing realization on the part of the government of Iran of the need for an American-type university in the country. The already-established University of Shiraz has been chosen for this purpose. Plans have now developed to the stage where H.I.M. the Shah of Iran and the Minister of Education have instructed me as Chancellor of the University of Shiraz, to seek an affiliation with an American university for the purposes of:

1. Recruitment of American teachers and advisers.

2. For placement of Iranian graduate students in the United States for advanced study, so that they may return to Iran to become the teachers and educational leaders of the country.

I have also been officially authorized to inform the officials of such an affiliated university that the government of Iran is prepared to effect any changes and/or reforms in the administrative and educational patterns of the University of Shiraz which would lead to the desired development.

Talks have already been held with the State University of New York for a proposed affiliation. Dr. John H. Slocum, vice president of the State University, will visit Shiraz in October for the purpose of proposing administrative and educational changes which would be necessary for the success of an affiliation and for the development of the University of Shiraz into an American-type university.

The University of Shiraz was founded in 1948 and at present consists of Schools of Medicine, Agriculture, Literature, and Science. These Schools at present occupy scattered and over-crowded buildings in the city, but recently a large tract of land on the outskirts of the city was donated for building an American-type

campus. An eight year program for construction has been worked out. The government of Iran has appropriated $1,000,000 to start construction of buildings for the Schools of Agriculture and Science, as well as dormitories for students. A similar sum will be provided each year until completion of the building program. These funds are in addition to the University's current operating budget provided by the government.

The basic objective is to develop an educational institution conducive to the training of leaders for the nation, not only in education but also in its social and political growth. To achieve this objective the provision of facilities for research and advanced study in addition to general university education will be necessary. After careful consideration of the special needs of Iran the government has come to the conclusion that a university patterned on basic American methods of education, but modified in details according to the individual problems of the country, is one of the most important objectives to pursue.

The Colleges of the University

1. Medicine

The Medical School to date has graduated five classes of about 30 students each. At present 40 students are admitted each year. A new curriculum has been adopted which emphasizes small group teaching at the bedside and in conferences by the block system, with a minimum of lectures. There are full-time professors in each of the basic sciences recruited from England, the United Stated, Canada, and Iran.

The clinical teaching is done at Saadi Hospital, a 200-bed government hospital adjacent to the Medical School, and at Nemazee Hospital, a 250-bed hospital situated one half mile away. At the latter hospital the staff is entirely full-time, composed of Iranians trained in the United States and Americans who at present act for the most part as Chiefs of Service. The Service Chiefs at this hospital are also Chairmen of their respective departments at the Medical School.

[redacted]

Specific Needs

The specific needs for continued growth of the Medical School are as follows:

1. Full-time teachers at instructor and assistant professor levels in anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, ~~physiology~~, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology - a total of approximately 12 individuals.

2. Aid in recruitment of these individuals is needed. They should be qualified Iranians wherever possible.

3. Funds for their support are also being sought.

4. Talks have been held with the Rockefeller Foundation respecting the possibility of this institution providing financial support for the basic science departments of the Medical School. A total of $1,000,000 spread over three years is being requested for support of these departments.

In addition to recruitment of highly qualified teachers in both basic science and clinical departments of the Medical School a source of funds for purchase of certain items of research equipment as well as laboratory technical personnel will be required. The Iranian government will provide necessary construction of research and teaching facilities. Funds for this research development would be included in the $1,000,000 being requested.

The clinical departments have been supported in part by the United States International Cooperation Administration through its underwriting of a contract between the Iran Foundation, Inc. and the government of Iran. According to the terms of this contract the Iran Foundation, acting as a supervising agency and trustee of the Nemazee Hospital, undertakes to provide clinical teaching of medical students, as well as training of nurses, laboratory, x-ray technicians, dieticians and physiotherapists. Inasmuch as the Nemazee Hospital is now the principal teaching hospital it is necessary to expand its staff further, with qualified Iranians wherever possible and with Americans wherever the former are not available.

In order to fully round out the staff, specialists in the following categories are presently needed: neurosurgery, otolaryngology, pphthalmology, pediatrics,

laboratory medicine, psychiatry, and dermatology.

A total of $300,000 per year is needed for support of the clinical departments plus support of nursing education and technical training. These funds are being sought by the Iranian government through the medium of the I.C.A.

2. Colleges of Literature and Science

The basic aim of these two Schools is to train teachers for the secondary schools of Iran. At present there is a severe shortage of such teachers, and an even greater shortage of teachers in all categories who are adequately trained.

American teachers are needed in the following fields: physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, geology, English, social sciences, and education.

Funds for the development of these schools should include the expenses of sending the best qualfied graduates to the United States for advanced study, and necessary equipment for research and for carrying out the curriculum successfully.

Approximately $1,000,000 over a period of three years is needed to carry out this program.

It is planned to develop these two colleges into one college of Arts and Sciences.

3. College of Agriculture

This College offers a three year course to students who have successfully completed high school and one year of training in science at the University's School of Science (equivalent to a freshman undergraduate college course).

The purpose of the college is to turn out graduates capable of participating in extension work in agricultural areas, of operating their own farms, and of taking leadership in raising the agricultural production levels throughout the country. At present the production levels are far below capacity and requirements.

American teachers are needed in the following categories: soil chemistry, botany, irrigation, horticulture, dairy products, cultivation, gardening, pest control, and forestry.

Funds for the development of this school should cover the expenses of sending

the best qualified graduates to the United States for advanced study, and necessary equipment for research and for carrying out the curriculum successfully.

Approximately $1,000,000 over a period of three years, is needed to carry out this program. Talks have been held with the Ford Foundation relative to consideration of support for the educational program in the Schools of Agriculture, Science, and Literature.

It is envisaged that the University of Shiraz must be developed ultimately to include colleges of engineering, Fine Arts, law, etc. For the present time, however, it is advisable to limit the University's fields as outlined above, until personnel and other potential becomes available for such an expansion.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

September 9, 1959

TO: O - Mr. Henderson

FROM: CU - Robert H. Thayer
NEA - Parker T. Hart

SUBJECT: Reorganization of Shiraz University in Iran

On September 3 Iranian plans for reorganization of Shiraz University along American lines were discussed by Mr. Thayer with Mr. Dean Rusk of the Rockefeller Foundation. He said that his investigation indicated to him that the Iranian plan to reorganize Shiraz University with American funds was tantamount to the United States building an American university in Iran. He expressed his opposition to the creation of an American University in Iran because of the widespread Iranian opposition this would arouse. He said that most prominent Iranians in the educational field would react negatively. (We believe this is because of their French academic backgrounds and the French methods of teaching presently employed in the Iranian educational system.) It was explained to him that the Department had also opposed the actual creation of a new American university in Iran. The Iranians were now asking for help to an existing institution which would be remodeled in the image of an American institution.

In a subsequent conversation with Mr. Thayer on September 8, Dean Rusk agreed to send Dr. John Weir of the Foundation to Washington on September 10 to meet with Departmental officials. Dr. Weir was familiar with the inquiries made by the Foundation when first approached by the Iranians. At that time, we hope to interest the Foundation in possible help to the reorganized university. We will point out that the Iranians have selected a site, have budgeted a million dollars for construction, and have stated that they will spend ten million dollars over the next six years. In these circumstances, United States private and governmental help might take the form of providing administrative know-how and faculty members. A representative of ICA will attend the meeting because of the technical assistance aspects of any United States governmental help in this matter. The Fulbright program offers little help at this time because PL 480 funds will soon be exhausted and there are no prospects now for a new program in Iran. This, of course, could change at some time in the future.

On the question of Iranian opposition, we will point out that the Shah and government, including the Prime Minister, have decided, despite this opposition, to transform Shiraz into an American-type university. We will also stress the long-term benefits we might expect to derive from this type of facility.

As you know,

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NEA: GTI: GE Monsen: glt

As you know, Dr. Mehra, as promised, sent you a letter (attached) giving further details of the Aliaz program. Since both Dr. Mehra and Dr. Gharban will return to Washington on September 21, we do not believe a reply is required. We should be in a position, however, by that date to give them some response. A copy of the letter has been sent to TCA.

Ambassador Wallner has agreed that any meeting of interested parties should be held at the Embassy. If the meeting materializes, the Department should probably send an observer.

We will keep you advised of further developments.

Attachment:

Letter from Dr. Mehra dated September 1, 1959

NEA:GTI:GMcCusker:gld (9/9/59)

NEA:GTI:JRHusbaum:gb

(Drafting Office and Officer)

(39)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

888.432/9-1059

Memorandum of Conversation

(BY TELEPHONE)

DATE:

SUBJECT: Shiraz University

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ali Qoli Ardalan, Ambassador of Iran
Mr. Frank J. Mouser, Officer in Charge, Iranian Affairs, GTI
Mr. Jay R. Husbaum, Assistant Officer in Charge, Iranian Affairs, GTI

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NEA-2 (1-cc)
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Amembassy, TEHRAN
Amconsul, ISFAHAN

Ambassador Ardalan inquired about the status of the proposal to establish an American-type university at Shiraz, Iran. Mr. Mouser informed the Ambassador that this matter had been discussed with Rockefeller Foundation officials by Departmental and ICA officers. As a result of these discussions, it was felt that Drs. Mehra and Worban should present their views to Foundation officials in New York on September 16, 1959, and that this matter should then be reviewed in a meeting in the Department on September 21 with Drs. Mehra and Worban.

Mr. Mouser assured the Ambassador that the Department was sympathetic to Iran's desires in this field, but noted that Iran would have to take a number of steps before any American assistance could be given to the university. As an example, he cited the need for legislation to authorize the engagement of professors on a full-time basis rather than the part-time system now in effect. Ambassador Ardalan stated that he believed such legislation was currently before the Majlis. He agreed, however, that the situation should be discussed fully and said that he would be pleased to come to the September 21 meeting.

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OCT 1 - 1959

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 11, 1959

SUBJECT: Rehabilitation of Shiraz University

(1)

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. John A. Weir, Rockefeller Foundation
Mr. Robert H. Thayer, Special Assistant to the Secretary, CU
Mr. Owen T. Jones, Director, Office of Greek, Turkish and Iranian Affairs
Mr. Grant F. Houser, Officer in Charge, Iranian Affairs, GTI
Mr. Nils Olsson, IAS
Mr. H. Franklin Irwin, CU

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Mr. Irwin opened the meeting and requested Mr. Jones to review the application of the Iranian Government for American aid to Shiraz University. At the conclusion of Mr. Jones' introduction, Dr. Weir stated that the Rockefeller Foundation had refused to finance a new Medical School at Shiraz in 1952. He stated that the Foundation regarded a private American-sponsored Medical School as impractical and too costly, and that they had recommended that the Shiraz Medical Center should cooperate closely with the Shiraz University. He pointed out that ICA had assisted at that time in the opening of a nurses' school which since has proved to be a huge success. About the same time the Shah came forward with an idea of creating an American University in Iran. He had dispatched Dr. Abu Torab Mehra of the Shiraz Medical Center and Dr. Zabih Ghorban, Chancellor of Shiraz University, to the United States to appeal for Rockefeller assistance in the creation of an entirely new university to be opened on American lines. Dr. Weir stated that Mehra had misinformed his Government, and had reported to it that Rockefeller would assist in this project. In a meeting with the Shah, Rockefeller representatives refused to assist. The Shah expressed lack of faith in the present French-influenced educational system in Iran and stated that he would finance the project himself; that all he wished from the United States was a commission of U.S. educators to visit Iran to act as advisers. The Rockefeller Foundation in October 1958 sent a group of four educators to Iran for a period of two weeks. The Committee submitted its report, and the Shah again stated that he only wanted to create an American-type school and wished only professional advice. In March 1959, Dr. Mehra came to New York, Dr. Weir stated, and told the Rockefeller Foundation that Dean Rusk must see the Shah. He stated that the Majlis had passed an education bill which would permit full-time teaching for Iranian instructors.

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This was not true. Rockefeller representatives [illegible] to provide funds for an Iranian [illegible] and also the [illegible] would be subject to [illegible] to [illegible] service and to [illegible] full-time teaching [illegible]. [illegible] the Iranian [illegible] concept [illegible] Dr. [illegible] mental [illegible] acceptable to Rockefeller, and that the Foundation would [illegible] at the London meeting. [illegible] Dr. Mehra pointed out that there are [illegible] Iranian scientists now studying and teaching in the United States, and that these people could be recruited to Iran to serve in the school. Dr. Weir responded that [illegible] of course are [illegible] situated in their American employment that he saw [illegible] that some would return to Iran to teach under the existing conditions.

Mr. Houser stated that no one here was surprised at the Iranian attitude to bargain. However, he believed that the Shah was realistic in his appraisal of the educational system of Iran, and that we should give serious consideration to assisting Iran in this endeavor.

Mr. Thayer inquired whether it would be possible to impress upon the Iranian representatives, Mehra and Ghorbal, that we will do nothing until the Iranians produce tangible evidence that they are seriously attempting to carry out the project. Mr. Houser replied that this was very difficult, and stated that the Iranians had already been told this.

Mr. Thayer suggested that there might be some advantage to a meeting with the Iranians at which we could express our position upon them. Mr. Houser stated that he thought this would be feasible and added that it would require polite firmness.

Mr. Olson suggested that the American parties concerned, namely, the State Department, ICA, and the Rockefeller Foundation should reach unanimity of opinion before undertaking meetings with the Iranians.

Dr. Weir reiterated the Rockefeller position stating that they would not assist until there were Iranians teaching and the proper academic law which would permit this.

In response to an inquiry as to the possible political repercussions of an American refusal to assist, Dr. Weir stated that it would take ten years for a new American-type university to have any impact on the country. He stated that Dr. Mehra and the Shah do not comprehend this fact.

Mr. Birnberg asked what the Rockefeller Foundation would do if Shiraz University were staffed by competent Iranians. Dr. Weir stated that the Foundation was prepared to train Iranians in fellowships in this country to build up Iranian resources, and added that in no case would Rockefeller finance American teaching positions.

Mr. Jones inquired whether Rockefeller would assist in the field of agriculture. Dr. Weir replied that the Foundation would assist in medical education only.

[illegible]

Mr. Birnberg [illegible] American university [illegible] positions available [illegible] under present conditions.

Mr. Houser stated that all of this had been put to the Iranians and Dr. Weir said that he would repeat it when the Iranians visit him on September 16. Mr. Gleason asked if it would be possible for Dr. Weir to transmit to the Department a memorandum of his conversation with Mr. Ishre and Gharban. Dr. Weir agreed, and suggested separate meetings with the Iranians: one in New York with the Rockefeller Foundation, another with the State Department and a third with ICA.

Mr. Dreyer inquired whether there were funds available for State Department assistance. Mr. Gleason replied that there were Smith-Mundt funds which could be drawn on.

Mr. Jones stated that as far as he could see there was no need for redirection of medical education in Iran, but that we should push for improvement in instruction in the basic sciences, the arts, and humanities.

Mr. Houser stated that it might be necessary to put our ideas on paper for the Shah, because his ambassador could not be expected to convey them correctly. Dr. Weir suggested that it might be possible for Dean Rusk to undertake a letter to the Shah. Mr. Jones said that it would be possible for a similar summation of our position to be left with the Shah by our Ambassador.

Mr. Jones summarized the meeting, stating that, as he saw it, there were three essential steps required before the Iranians could expect assistance from us:

1. The education and military service laws of Iran must be amended to permit qualified scientists to teach full time at Shiraz;

2. The Iranians must erect the necessary buildings;

3. The Iranian Government must control more tightly the type of training undertaken abroad by its subjects.

Dr. Weir remarked that he thought a law aimed specifically at Shiraz University rather than a general amendment might be preferable. He added that Rockefeller would like to see Shiraz set up as an autonomous university. He stated that a review of American university charters would be of assistance to the Iranians in drafting such legislation. Mr. Birnberg stated that ICA has financed

[illegible] discussions to travel and study the [illegible] of [illegible] European universities. He thought that at the right time [illegible] could [illegible] in this field.

The meeting concluded with all being in agreement on the [illegible] American position which would be presented to the Iranians at separate meetings.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

(BY TELEPHONE)

888.432/9-1559

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DATE: September 16, 1959

SUBJECT: Shiraz University; Corvettes for the Iranian Navy

PARTICIPANTS: His Excellency Ali Asghar Ardalan, Ambassador of Iran
Mr. Grant C. Mouser, Officer in Charge, Iranian Affairs, NEA

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SEP 17 1959

1. Shiraz University

Ambassador Ardalan said he could confirm that Drs. Mehrn and Ghorban would see Mr. Dean Rusk of the Rockefeller Foundation on September 16. The Ambassador asked about the meeting proposed for September 21 in Washington. Mr. Mouser replied that the composition of the meeting depended to a great extent upon the results of the September 16 discussion. It was hoped, however, that both meetings would clarify in everyone's mind what was required in the situation. Mr. Mouser said that he was very much afraid that Dr. Mehrn had not always understood what the Rockefeller Foundation had told him and the consequences had been considerable confusion and even annoyance in some quarters. Ambassador Ardalan commented that he agreed completely and that the most important reason for his attendance at the September 21 meeting lay in the fact that he would report fully and accurately to Tehran what each position was.

2. Corvettes for the Iranian Navy

Ambassador Ardalan asked if there was anything to report to Tehran regarding his government's request for four corvettes for the Iranian Navy. Mr. Mouser said that he could confirm that the request had been put by the Ministry of War to the U.S. Military Mission in Iran and that this matter was now under study. Ambassador Ardalan agreed that matters of this kind could best be handled by Iranian and American military authorities, but he added that he had been instructed by the Foreign Ministry to obtain a status report from the State Department. Mr. Mouser promised to inform Ambassador Ardalan of what had developed as soon as he possibly could.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 22, 1959

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SUBJECT: Reorganization of Shiraz University

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ali Qoli Ardalan, Ambassador of Iran
Dr. Zabeh Qorban, Chancellor, Shiraz University
Dr. Abu Torab Mehra, Shiraz University
Mr. Robert H. Thayer, Special Assistant to the Secretary, CU
Mr. Owen T. Jones, Director, Office of Greek, Turkish & Iranian Affairs
Mr. Grant E. Mouser, Officer in Charge, Iranian Affairs, GTI
Mr. Nils Olsson, IES
Mr. H. Franklin Irwin, CU
Mr. Cary T. Grayson, CU
Mr. Richard Birnberg, ICA/O/NE/GTI

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Mr. Thayer welcomed Ambassador Ardalan and assured him that the United States was eager to assist Iran in every way possible. He also expressed the hope that the present meeting would prove fruitful in resolving the question of American assistance in the reorganization of Shiraz University.

The Ambassador thanked Mr. Thayer and gave a brief review of the Iranian application for assistance to Shiraz. He also expressed his belief that an American-type university at Shiraz could be a potential influence beyond the borders of Iran, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Ambassador then referred to Drs. Qorban and Mehra for the details of Iran's request.

Dr. Qorban stated that the Majlis had passed legislation permitting full-time employment for Shiraz University faculty members who were engaged in teaching and research. He also stated that the conscription laws had been amended so that Iranian professors at Shiraz University would no longer be subject to military service. Qorban stated that they planned a six-year expansion program for Shiraz, and that they had the necessary money and land.

Mr. Thayer said that the Department concurred with the opinion of the Rockefeller Foundation that the majority of the professional staff of the reorganized university must be indigenous. Dr. Qorban replied that Dr. Weir of Rockefeller had promised to visit Iran in January. He remarked that the proposal had the support of the Minister of Education, who was American trained and who wants teachers trained in the American system. He added that the Deans of Education, Science, and Literature were American-trained.

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Dr. Qorban next requested Mr. Thayer to read aloud a letter he had received from Dr. John H. Slocum of the State University of New York. Dr. Slocum conditioned the affiliation of Shiraz University on the following points:

1. Financial support coming from sources other than the State University.

2. Development of a detailed statement for such a program, including a definition of objectives.

3. Organization of the University in such a way as to give reasonable assurance that the program's objectives can be reached, and that Shiraz, in time, will be able to carry through its program without further assistance of the State University.

Dr. Slocum further stated that if an agreement were concluded with Shiraz, the State University would be prepared to offer assistance in the following areas: basic medical sciences, secondary teacher training in literature and science, and in agricultural fields. This assistance would include sending faculty in the above fields to help in developing cirriculum, training of indigenous faculty, and to teach. In addition, the State University of New York would be prepared to accept Iranian graduate students.

Mr. Thayer asked when the university would be ready to receive visiting faculty. Dr. Qorban replied that all schools were ready now for some help. He said that assistance is needed especially in administrative organization, particularly in amending the by-laws under which the University functions. Dr. Qorban added that what Iran needed immediately was a statement of official United States interest in order to encourage the interest of the Foundations and, perhaps, UNESCO. The Foundations, Mr. Thayer said, were certainly interested in assisting, as was this government; however, he emphasized that it is the position of both the government and the Foundations that they were not ready to step in with substantial help until there had been greater activity on the part of Iran.

Mr. Jones inquired whether there had been a noticeable effect on Iranian teachers overseas by the amendment of the labor and military conscription law. Dr. Qorban replied in the affirmative, but gave no evidence other than to say that since this legislative action he had interviewed various Iranian scientists in this country and that they had expressed interest in returning home. Dr. Qorban said that it was through the assistance of ICA that the medical school had forged ahead of the rest of the university, and that they desired to raise the other schools to the same high level.

Mr. Jones wondered if the fields of major of the 4,000 Iranians studying in the United States would provide a wide enough base for Iran's new educational plans. He inquired if Iran might not find it necessary to direct their students into the most required fields of study. Dr. Qorban stated that the distribution of academic interests of the Iranian students thus far had not required government direction.

Ambassador Ardalan said that "in summary" the foundations and the Department were saying "Help yourself first, and then we will help you. The situation is not yet ripe for us." The American side concurred.

Dr. Mehra stated that he thought United States education is "the only salvation" of his country. The Iranian Government "must deliver the goods as soon as possible to the people." He noted that there was political opposition to Dr. Qorban, but that the Shah was firmly in back of this plan, was providing large sums of money and wants results. "We want a master plan from the United States. We need a timetable."

Mr. Thayer remarked that it was not possible for the Department to commit funds beyond a fiscal year. Dr. Mehra replied that they did not "seek American wealth, only a plan." Mr. Thayer said that American help without substantial Iranian action would not truly assist Iran. Ambassador Ardalan stated that the political side of the problem was "quite all right."

Mr. Birnberg said that there were some USOM people in Iran who would be glad to consult and advise in the initial preparation of a long term plan. The next step would depend on the reports of specialists despatched to Iran. He added, that he did not know what people would be available for this study, but that ICA would require the following information before sending its advisers:

1. Present stage of the physical redevelopment;

2. In what areas the Iranians know they will need help; e.g., possibly administrative problems first;

3. The size and scope of the group of advisers needed.

Dr. Qorban repeated the Iranian request for a "team" to draw up a master plan and to prepare a timetable. He added that he wanted something "concrete" to take home. He wanted to know how trustees were chosen and the relation of the United States universities to our government. Mr. Birnberg stated that he was confident our mission at Tehran could help with these questions. He said that the planning must relate to the rest of the educational scene to prevent duplication and confusion. Dr. Qorban replied that USOM emphasized Tehran in its activities, not places like Shiraz.

Mr. Jones stated that Dr. Slocum's letter (above) seemed to imply need for some kind of planning. Pending Slocum's visit, what does Iran plan to do, Mr. Jones asked.

Dr. Qorban said he would tell Dr. Slocum they needed a plan including a timetable of plant construction, methods of recruiting, ways of budgeting funds.

Mr. Thayer remarked that inasmuch as Dr. Qorban was returning in 48 hours, there was little likelihood of his being able to take such a plan with him.

Dr. Qorban concluded that he would be satisfied to be able to say that such a plan would be forthcoming and that people would be sent. He added, that the

universities at Tabriz and Isfahan were consulting the French, who he said would send teachers.

The meeting concluded with the American side agreeing to examine its financial and human resources immediately, and with the Iranians promising to inform their government of the American position as stated above.

Central File: Decimal File 888.432, Internal Economic, Industrial And Social Affairs., Education., Iran, Advanced Education. Universities. Colleges. Etc., January 4, 1955 - September 22, 1959. January 4, 1955 - September 22, 1959. MS Iran (Persia): Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1883-1959: Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, Iran: Internal and Foreign Affairs, 1955-1959. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5111341155/GDSC?u=uagm&sid=GDSC&xid=b072e6f9&pg=16. Accessed 8 Apr. 2021.